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IN TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST

● Kibbutz members in the Arava assumed the talks with Jordan hadn't begun to affect them. By the end of the week, officials were measuring a border crossing on their land. List Collins talks to them. Section B.

● Yuppiedom hits Rosh Ha'ayin: the neglected, embarrassing backwater is being transformed from development town to developing city. Allison Kaplan Sommer surveys the incredible change. Magazine.

● Yasser Arafat, stung by the Jerusalem newspaper An-Nahar's support for the Washington Declaration, got the paper to close down. Jon Immanuel reports on Palestinian press freedom. Section B.

● Robert De Niro debuts as a director. Adina Hoffman reviews 'A Bronx Tale,' a dew-eyed labor of love. Time Out.



Four cabinet members - (from second left) Justice Minister David Liba'i, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer - visit Modi'in yesterday to see for themselves the problems involved with the ancient burial caves found at the site. (Story, Page 14) (Aron Rowland/San)

Dr. Dizengoff sweeping J'lem streets

BATSHEVA TSUR

DR. GENADY Dizengoff, a cousin of Tel Aviv's first mayor, has been cleaning streets in Jerusalem buildings in the early hours of the morning since arriving from Moscow three years ago.

Dizengoff, 55, a building engineer who has patented a process for advanced construction materials, then spends the rest of the day working as a simple laborer at a hi-tech plant.

"The Tel Aviv Municipality showed us the street named for our cousin. Every day we think of the people who are enjoying themselves there and wonder what we are doing here," said his wife, Ludmilla, a chemical engineer who cleans houses.

"This ironic example is typical of how Israel is hurtling towards bankruptcy with regard to utilizing the brainpower brought here from the former Soviet Union," said Ben-Gurion University Prof. Yirmiyahu Branover yesterday.

"Of 58,000 engineers who arrived here in the last aliyah wave, only 18,000 are being employed in work related to their fields, 6,000 of them as technicians," added Branover, who has presented the government with a master plan for employing immigrant experts.

He said the cabinet had endorsed his plan in January 1993 and allocated funds, "and Prime Minister Rabin promised a year ago to personally oversee the project. Since then, nothing has moved," he said.

Christopher arrives tomorrow

DAVID MAKOVSKY and HILLEL KUTTLER

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in Jerusalem tomorrow night to press Israeli-Syrian talks forward. During his visit, he will also inaugurate a Jordan-Israel border crossing for third party tourists just north of Eilat alongside Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein.

Senior officials believe it is likely that Rabin and Hussein will hold talks at a makeshift structure along the border just before or after the ceremony on Monday.

IDF engineers detonated about 30 antipersonnel mines in a no-man's land on the Jordanian border near Kibbutz Eilat in the Arava yesterday, clearing the way for construction of the new border crossing.

Western diplomatic sources advise Israel to listen seriously to King Hussein's remarks, when the monarch says he will visit Jerusalem soon. "I am not aware of any decision taken by the king," a Western diplomatic source said yesterday. "However, just as he told the Jordanian parliament last month that he would meet Rabin, and he did so, Israel would be wise to take him at his word. I think he is going to come."

Hussein has said that he does not need any invitation to visit

Jerusalem, but will come on his own. During his celebrated overflight of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem on Wednesday, Hussein demonstrably circled the Temple Mount twice before heading to Jordan.

Meanwhile, there are signs that Damascus may consider a compromise between Rabin's insistence that Syria establish an embassy in Tel Aviv after the first phase of Golan withdrawal and its heretofore refusal to do so.

Specifically, the idea would involve Damascus agreeing to adopting a "Jordan model," whereby diplomatic relations are not established after the first phase of withdrawal but a de facto warm peace ensues along the lines now unfolding between Israel and Jordan. This would involve opening borders and starting trade between the two countries. In this case, full Israeli-Syrian diplomatic relations would be established at another phase.

When it comes to insistence upon Syrian normalization, Rabin has preferred an "Egypt model." Citing Egypt's agreement to establish diplomatic relations with Israel after the first phase of Sinai withdrawal, Rabin wants the Syri-

ans to do the same. Assad has resisted this approach by Rabin, who has not committed Israel to full withdrawal.

The US believes that serious bilateral talks on improving relations with Syria will occur only following a breakthrough in the peace talks, the official added.

Referring to Syrian President Hafez Assad and Rabin, President Bill Clinton said Wednesday night that "I believe both leaders do want to make peace."

"I am convinced that [Assad] is still very much interested in a comprehensive peace," Clinton said during a nationally televised, prime-time news conference that focused primarily on domestic matters. "We have one piece of public evidence of that, which is that the whole ceremony between Israel and Jordan signing the Washington Declaration was shown on television in Syria (Continued on Page 2)

IDF on alert after raiding security zone

7 killed, 13 wounded in mistaken attack

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

IDF and South Lebanese Army troops were on full alert in the security zone and along the northern border last night, in case of Katyusha rocket attacks. The attacks were feared in response to an IAF raid against targets north of the security zone yesterday, in which at least seven Lebanese civilians were killed and 13 others wounded by mistake.

Veteran Lebanese observers said they expect the Syrians to put pressure on Hizbullah not to fire rockets into the Galilee in response to the air raid. Nevertheless, there was concern that some elements would use the incident as a pretext for launching rocket attacks, despite an official statement by the IDF Spokesman expressing deep regret about the civilian casualties.

The message was also conveyed to UNIFIL commander Maj.-Gen. Trond Furubovde via the IDF's UN liaison unit.

"The army stresses innocent civilians are not the target of our air

raids and expresses sorrow for the casualties," the statement said. According to some reports, diplomatic efforts were set in motion last night to try to prevent an escalation along the northern border. The Syrians stand to gain considerable political capital over the incident if they can show their ability to contain the situation.

The IAF twice attacked Hizbullah targets in the Jab'el Saffi region north of the security zone yesterday, but there were no reports of casualties in those raids.

The IDF Spokesman stressed that the targets were hit. During the course of the attacks, however, a house in Deir Zaharani, near Nabatiya was also hit.

According to reports from Lebanon, the three-story building was demolished and at least 10 civilians were killed and 15 wounded. The dead included four children, three women, and three men. The reports said rescue workers feared there were more bodies under the rubble.

Israel Radio quoted Radio Bei-

rut as saying originally that the attack on Deir Zaharani had been directed against a local Hizbullah leader, Ali Badradin.

However, according to the IDF Spokesman, the building was hit by a bomb which had gone off course. The spokesman stressed that innocent civilians are not a target for IAF attacks and that the IDF expressed its deep regrets over the casualties. The incident is being investigated.

"We hope they will understand that this was a genuine mistake and that the IDF does not want to heat up the area," a military source said last night.

Nevertheless, the communist-run Voice of the People radio station had no hesitation in describing the incident as "a massacre." All the victims belonged to three families who lived in the building. The security sources said they had no known political affiliations. But they said two Hizbullah activists live in nearby buildings, and they were not hurt.

Iqlim al-Tuffah is a known Hizbullah stronghold, often used to stage attacks against the security zone.

Over 100 Israelis get Jordanian visas

HAIM SHAPIRO

OVER 100 Israelis with foreign passports received Jordanian visas yesterday, for use when the border crossing between Eilat and Akaba opens next week.

Anat Leventhal, who is in charge of tours to Jordan for Galilee Tours, said that she received between 130 and 140 visas, after having submitted the applications earlier. Officially, the crossing is for citizens of third countries who are neither Israelis nor Jordanians, but Leventhal said the Jordanians had indicated that they would be liberal in allowing visas for Israelis with dual citizenship.

According to the Airports Authority, which operates land border terminals as well, the crossing is to begin operations immediately after the opening ceremony on Monday. The terminal, which is to be made up of six caravans, is to have border control, insur-

ance for vehicles, customs, a bank, a police post and a Government Tourist Office.

The Tourism Ministry said tourists wishing to make the crossing should have a passport valid for at least six months. It said the crossing can be made in both directions, but only bona fide tourists - those staying at least one night in the other country - can make the crossing.

According to the ministry, the Jordanians will no longer make any problems for tourists arriving at the border with an Israeli stamp in their passport. However, it noted that tourists wishing to travel to Arab countries other than Jordan and Egypt should take care to avoid having Israeli stamps in their passport.

No vehicles registered either in Israel or Jordan are to be allowed to cross the border.

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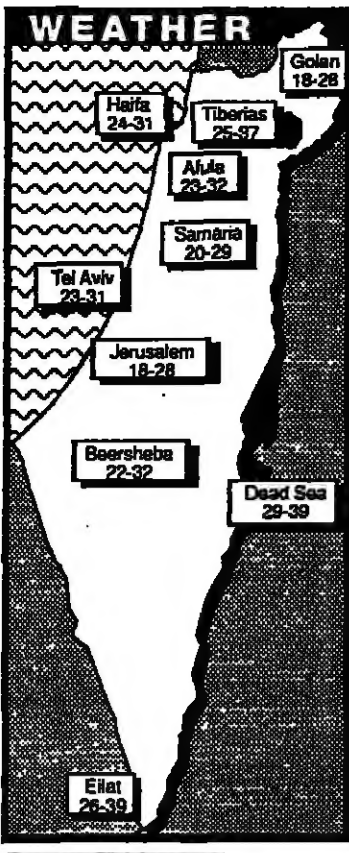
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Soldier in serious condition after drive-by shooting

DAVID RUDGE and ALON PINKAS

AN IDF soldier was in serious condition in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday after being shot by terrorists in a passing car in the Jordan Rift Valley late Wednesday night.

The soldier, Vitali Rutenberg, 19, from Netanya, suffered spinal and chest wounds. He was first taken to Emek hospital in Ashdod, but was transferred to Rambam yesterday morning because of the seriousness of his wounds.

Rambam director Prof. Moshe Revah said Rutenberg had undergone surgery overnight and was in the chest surgery department.

According to reports, one of the bullets that hit Rutenberg passed through his chest and lodged in his spine.

The attack occurred around 10:30 near Moshav Shadmot Mehola on the Beit She'an-Jericho road. The soldier, from a Nahal unit, was in an army van when it was overtaken by a car, from which shots were fired, hitting Rutenberg.

The attackers fled the scene. Despite searches by the IDF and police, the car was reported to have reached Jericho, where Palestinian police said it also managed to evade them.

In a similar incident around the same time Wednesday night, shots were fired from a passing car at an army jeep on the outskirts of Hebron. A soldier in the jeep was lightly wounded in the legs. The car sped away in the direction of Hebron.

Searches continued yesterday for the two cars and terrorist squads involved in both attacks, which were similar in method to those perpetrated in the past by the Izzadin Kassam military wing of Hamas.

Israeli residents in the area say they hope the shootings were isolated incidents. The authorities are expected to liaise with the Palestinian Police over the terrorist attack, following reports those involved in the Jordan Rift Valley incident fled toward Jericho.

A senior security official told Itim last night that Jericho and the autonomous zone surrounding it have become a staging area for terrorist attacks, primarily by Hamas.

Minefield on Jordanian border cleared to make way for crossing

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

IDF engineers detonated about 30 anti-personnel mines in a no-man's land on the Jordanian border near Kibbutz Eliot in the Arava yesterday, clearing the way for construction of a new border crossing.

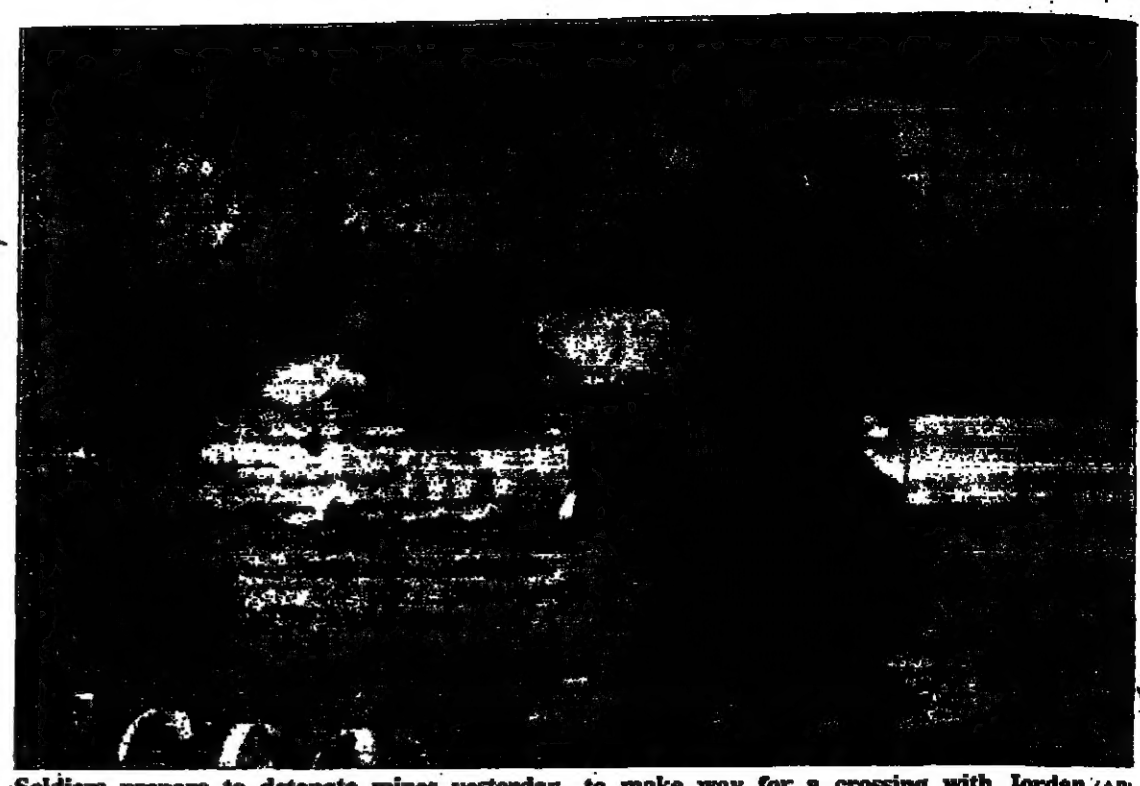
The crossing is the first joint project between the two countries since King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week signed a non-belligerency accord in Washington.

Yesterday morning, IDF engineers marked approximately 30 mines with red cones, then wired them together for detonation.

An IDF officer waved a red flag three times to signal that an explosion was imminent. His Jordanian counterpart answered from across the border with the wave of a red flag, and a chain of explosions was heard.

Maj.-Gen. Dani Yatom, Rabin's military aide, told reporters the area had to be cleared of mines to ensure the public's safety.

He said the mines cleared yesterday were "anti-personnel



Soldiers prepare to detonate mines yesterday, to make way for a crossing with Jordan. (AP)

mines, some of which have drifted from their original places over the years. They were planted following the Six Day War. Meanwhile, bilateral negotiations continued yesterday in nearby Ein Avrona concerning cooperation on transport, telecommunications, and aviation.

Peace Watch: Israel and Palestinians violated accord

BILL HUTMAN

ISRAEL and the PLO have both violated their peace accord in attempt to strengthen their positions with regard to Jerusalem, according to a report released yesterday by a non-partisan group monitoring the peace process.

Government ministers were in violation when they declared Jerusalem would not be a subject of negotiations, while the agreements reached between the two sides clearly state it will be, the report by Peace Watch states.

The ministers' statements "reject the possibility of holding negotiations on the Jerusalem question, and therefore violate the agreement," the 21-page report states.

The Palestinians have not kept to the agreements by operating five institutions in Jerusalem that should be in either Jericho or Gaza.

The organizations include Palestinian Statistics Center, the Palestinian Broadcasting Authority, the Palestinian Committee for Human Rights, and PECDAR - the Palestinian Economic Authority.

Researchers for Peace Watch, based in Jerusalem, reviewed the handling of both sides of the Jerusalem issue since the signing of the Declaration of Principles in September.

"The DOP and Cairo Accord left open the Jerusalem question, to be discussed during future talks on the permanent agreement," the report states.

Israel and the Palestinians, however, in the meantime "are constantly trying to improve their hold on the city," so as to be in a better position when the talks on Jerusalem begin.

The report included public statements by leaders of both sides that indicated that they were not keeping with the commitment to leave Jerusalem's political future to negotiations.

The PLO spokeswoman at the UN declared in June that more Palestinian Authority institutions would be set up, and several were already operating in Jerusalem. This directly violated the peace agreement, according to Peace Watch.

In addition, the attempts to pass legislation in the Knesset regarding the status of Jerusalem, while so far halted by the government, also represent a potential violation.

The proposal by Likud MK Yehoshua Matza and Labor MK Emanuel Zissman to expand Jerusalem's borders would constitute a violation of the PLO-Israel accord if approved by the Knesset, the report stated.

Weizman will sign pardons for Palestinian women next week

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman will sign pardons for 10 young Palestinian women on Sunday or Monday, paving the way for their release and further movement in the peace talks with the Palestinians, according to presidential bureau chief Arye Shimmer.

The 10, all of whom are serving sentences of up to five years and who are under 25 years old, require presidential clemency because they were sentenced in Israeli courts, Shimmer said. This, despite the fact that only three of them have Israeli ID cards as residents of Jerusalem.

The remainder come from the Tulkarm, Ramallah and Bethlehem areas or villages outside Jerusalem.

All the young women were sentenced for offenses that did not involve bloodshed.

Police Minister Moshe Shaleh said yesterday that the releases had been postponed from this week because Weizman had not yet signed. But Shimmer described the delay as purely technical, saying that the president had needed time to study the files.

The requests for the pardons were brought before the president by political circles and not by the appellants. It is learnt.

Police use force to break up demonstration by Golan residents

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE yesterday broke up a demonstration by Golan Heights residents who tried to prevent Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's car from arriving at Kibbutz Kinneret.

The incident occurred as Labor Party leaders traveled to the kibbutz to take part in a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Berl Katznelson.

Scores of residents of the Golan had gathered near the road leading to the kibbutz. They carried placards reading "The Golan is My Home," and "Peres and Rabin don't ignore and abandon us. We don't want to be victims of your so-called peace."

Maria Van Meter, one of the organizers of the demonstration, said the protesters had been "aggravated" when the car in which Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was traveling passed them with the curtains drawn.

"This fueled the frustration and the feeling that the government is ignoring us," said Van Meter, a resident of kibbutz Afik, on the southern reaches of the Golan heights.

"When Rabin's car came, one of the demonstrators threw himself on the hood and the police moved in and forcibly removed him, which caused an escalation," said Van Meter.

Leaders of the Golan Settlers Committee held talks with police after Rabin's car had passed through and no arrests were made. The demonstrators dispersed after spending over two hours at the scene.

"It is ironic that the two government leaders came to the kibbutz to honor a man [Katznelson] who was a proponent of pioneering settlement as part of the Zionist ideology. This is exactly what residents of the Golan have been doing for the past 27 years," said Van Meter.

At the ceremony, Rabin said: "The great ability of the two leaders, Berl Katznelson and David Ben-Gurion, was that despite their differences they united under a vision and advanced the people towards nationhood."

Karmiel accused of polluting valley stream

LIAT COLLINS

KARMIEL, one of the towns awarded the Environment Ministry's Green Shield this year for its cleanliness and aesthetic appearance, has been accused by the Nature Reserves Authority of neglecting its sewage and polluting the nearby valley and stream.

"The city's cleanliness is a matter of cosmetics only," NRA spokeswoman Dina Weinstein charged on Wednesday. "It does not have suitable sewage treatment plants, and while the lawns are well-tended and the colorful flowers welcome guests to the town, raw sewage flows out of the back gate into the Lower Nahal Hilon."

Karmiel's population has doubled with the recent wave of immigration, but the temporary sewage treatment plant established to deal with the increased quantities of waste has not worked for the last five years. The Yodfat reservoir - intended to receive the town's sewage and recycle it into water for agriculture - does not have sufficient capacity to cope with the extra quantities of sewage, Weinstein said.

The sewage acts as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and pollutes groundwater while the smell bothers residents of the nearby settlements and drivers on Road No. 70, Weinstein said.

She said the NRA, Environment Ministry and Water Commissioner had all demanded a temporary sewage pump be established by the town. A regional sewage network is planned within the next four years which should solve the problem, but a temporary solution should be found until then, Weinstein said.

The city spokeswoman was not available for comment.

CHRISTOPHER

Christopher begins his regional tour today with a stop in Cairo. He is likely to hold talks with Rabin tomorrow night or Sunday morning before continuing to Damascus. From there, he goes to Jordan.

Meanwhile, a PLO official said yesterday that the Arab League has agreed to put the future of Jerusalem and the Moslem holy places on its agenda when it convenes next month.

"Israel is trying to divide Jerusalem into religious, political and legal parts, even into Christian and Moslem ones. This is unacceptable. We have asked for a united Arab stand to support Palestine in its affirmation of its claim over Jerusalem," Palestinian Mohammed Sobieh told Reuters yesterday.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath are to meet in Cairo next Thursday to discuss at least a two-part agenda, a Foreign Ministry official said. Peres will seek to update Shaath on the Israel-Jordanian breakthrough, making it the first high-level contact since the Washington declaration last week. The two parties will also discuss a wide array of economic issues.

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by Shifra Hoffman

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SOMETIMES MY MOTHER-IN-LAW IS RIGHT

My mother-in-law has a number of sayings that really annoy me. For example, "mothers are always right" or "blood is thicker than water". My wife and I decided to get away from her and other troubles. We took a trip to Europe. Our travel agent recommended a small car rental agency in Rome. He said they charged \$20 less than Avis. In Rome, they said "the car is ready to go, Ciao!" After 20 kilometers the car suddenly stopped. The gas tank looked full but it was empty. It seems the gauge didn't work. I took a day to reach the rental agency by phone... and it took them another week to replace the car. "I told you", my mother-in-law said "when you buy a car, you should always admit, but this time she was right."

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Court denies petition to appoint judges for IDF investigations

THE High Court of Justice threw out a petition yesterday asking that the army be forced to appoint an investigating judge to look into all military accidents, saying the petitioner had no standing in the matter.

Justices Shlomo Levine, Dov Levin and Zvi Tal said repeatedly that the issue was a very important one and worthy of serious discussion in "the appropriate public forum," but that the court was not that forum.

Attorney Naftali Gur-Arye, who filed the petition, argued that investigating judges were crucial to determine whether senior officers were to blame in a given case. Although the army can appoint such judges, it often chooses to have investigations conducted by an officer instead. This makes it

EVELYN GORDON

extremely unlikely that blame will be attached to people high up the ladder, since such people are the investigating officers' superiors, Gur-Arye said.

An investigating judge, he stated, "is the only way to determine the responsibility of the top brass."

However, the justices said the court was not an appropriate forum for setting a general policy. If there was a specific case in which Gur-Arye thought justice had been done because of the lack of an investigating judge, the court said it could examine that specific instance, but in that case the petition should come from the bereaved families concerned, since it would be

wrong to force another investigation against their will.

Gur-Arye tried to argue that it was too emotionally difficult for the bereaved families to bring such a case themselves, though many, he said, had applauded his efforts.

"They don't have the strength to take a personal stand against the military authorities," he said.

However, government attorney Nili Arad, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, retorted that most families would not be afraid to go to court if they really thought the issue was important, just as the parents whose children were killed in the Tze'elim 2 training accident petitioned the court for permission to attend the trial of those considered responsible.



Some of the 1,000 immigrant children from the CIS who gathered at the Western Wall yesterday, many for the first time. Children in the group, sponsored by Return, the United Fund for the Education of Russian Immigrant Children in Israel, came from Ofakim, Ashkelon, Or Yehuda, Netanya, Be'er Ya'acov, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem.

Cable TV head:

Rumors of Sky News going off air are untrue

LIAT COLLINS

RUMORS that Sky News would follow Eurosport as the next channel to disappear from local cable television have been denied by an Israeli Cable Television Association official.

Ma'ariv yesterday said that Sky News reception was endangered in Israel because the company's British base had decided to change the satellite it uses to beam broadcasts to the region.

"I had a very warm meeting with Sky News representatives in London recently, and find it strange that the subject wasn't raised then if it is being discussed," said Yossi Douer, chairman of the Israel Cable Television Association, the umbrella group of the five cable television franchise holders. "It doesn't seem logical, anyway."

The station is very popular in the Middle East and only a couple of months ago the channel said it wanted to compete with CNN.

Douer also reiterated claims that the reason Eurosport will not be received here beginning next week is purely technical — the station is changing satellites and the reception field of the temporary one does not reach this region.

Earlier this week, an official of the Cable Television Council, the public body that supervises the cable stations, said Eurosport had informed her that the problem is financial, not technical, because the cable franchise holders had not paid the station its dues.

Douer said yesterday that the sports station might return to local screens in January when it moves to its new permanent satellite and the cable companies are investigating alternatives.

"It is just not technically possible to receive it before January," Douer said. "This is not a question of money."

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Brothers suspected of family killing remanded

RAINE MARCUS

TWO brothers suspected of murdering their sister because she violated their "family honor" were remanded for seven days by Ramle Magistrate's Court yesterday.

When Sara Mugrabi, 23, went missing from her home Wednesday evening, her husband reported her disappearance to Ramle police. She was last seen with her brothers, Ziyad, 41, and Yusuf Mugrabi, 32, and police believe they are connected to her disappearance. The brothers were arrested, but denied seeing their sister or knowing her whereabouts.

In remanding the two, Judge Shmuel Baruch said that although police do not have direct evidence linking the brothers to her disappearance, evidence suggesting their involvement must be investigated.

He said that Ziyad Mugrabi's version of events was strange and inconsistent. Ziyad has already served a prison sentence for murdering one of his sisters, and was twice suspected of similar offenses but was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

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Deficit may shut day-care centers

SOME 45,000 pre-school children are likely to find their day-care centers closed on September 1, the beginning of the school year, unless the government covers the NIS 60 million deficit of Na'amat, WIZO, and Emuna, the women's organizations which run the centers.

The heads of the three organizations this week sent letters to the parents of the 45,000 children registered at their day-care centers throughout the country, advising them that if the present situation continues, the centers, which are shutting down this week for summer recess, will not reopen on September 1.

The letters, signed by Na'amat secretary-general Ofra Friedman, WIZO president Michal Moda'i, and Emuna chairman Yehudit

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Huebner, blame the huge deficit threatening the centers on the government's failure to pay its share for these services.

The women's organizations say the centers are in fact a state service, which they maintain and run as sub-contractors. Over the past 25 years, however, the government has neglected to update its part of the payments, while the women's organizations have been forced to raise the sums with which they subsidize every child, in order to keep the centers open.

The government is also ignoring its obligation to increase subsidies for needy children and refuses to recognize the real employment

costs of 8,000 day-care center teachers, Friedman, Moda'i, and Huebner said.

"If the government is not prepared to pay for services it has a duty to provide its citizens with, then we'll give them back the keys and let them run the day care centers," Friedman said.

Friedman, Moda'i, and Huebner are to meet next week with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat in a last-ditch effort to enable the opening of the centers next month. However, Na'amat sources said yesterday the chances of getting any help from the Treasury appear slim.

Treasury spokesman Aryeh Greenblatt said in response that the centers' NIS 60 million deficit "is not related to us."

Jose Rosenfeld contributed to this report.

Suspects in sexual assault held till trial

RAINE MARCUS

FOUR juveniles, accused of beating and sexually abusing a 16-year-old cellmate at the Abu Kabir lockup, were remanded until trial by Tel Aviv District Court Judge Nissan Yeshayahu yesterday.

"The fact that they are under 18 did not prevent them from traumatizing their victim, who may never recover from the ordeal," said Yeshayahu in remanding the youths.

The youth had been incarcerated with the other four minors, who decided to torment him because they believed he had informed on one of them to police. All five were suspected of burglaries.

The four allegedly stubbed cigarettes out on him, set fire to pieces of paper between his fingers and to his kippa, urinated on him, and sexually assaulted him.

The youth wing guard, who reportedly had fallen asleep during the alleged assault, faces disciplinary proceedings following the findings of an inquiry into the incident.

"The events of that night are shocking and hateful," said Yeshayahu. "Where did these people learn such cruel and sickening behavior?"

Their behavior reminded him of the book *Clockwork Orange*, he added.

In a related development, Association for Civil Rights in Israel lawyer Zvika Rish is waiting for a reply to a letter sent to Police Minister Moshe Shahal asking him to implement immediate changes in lockups nationwide.

"Overcrowding, wrote Rish, has reached unbearable proportions. Many convicts who should be serving their sentences in prisons are doing their time in police lockups."

Shahal has been waging a battle with local council heads for their agreement to build new prisons. Although the Police Ministry has a budget to build new prisons, mayors are reluctant to allow prisons to be built in their areas.

Kach camp organizer detained for questioning

HERB KEINON

FORMER Kach activist Natan Levy, one of the organizers of a Kach summer camp, was detained for questioning yesterday, and summonses for the arrest of two other organizers of the camp were issued by the Netanya Magistrate's Court.

One of the two others organizers, Itamar Ben-Gvir from Mevaseret Zion, said from hiding that he knows eventually he will be brought in for questioning, "but that we want to show that we will not cooperate with the police in what is a political investigation. They have nothing against us, and want to bring us in only for political reasons."

Striking Arab council heads pledge to intensify action after talks with Treasury break down

DAVID RUDGE

STRIKING Arab local council heads yesterday pledged to intensify their protest action to press for more government funding, after a breakdown in talks with officials from the Treasury and the Prime Minister's Office.

The council leaders, who are staging a vigil in their protest tent opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, said behind-the-scenes negotiations to try to end the nearly three-week-old strike had ended in deadlock on Wednesday night.

"We are demanding budgetary parity with Jewish councils at a faster rate than what has been offered so far," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

The 53 Arab councils have accumulated debts totaling NIS 200 million, and more than a dozen have been unable to pay the salaries of municipal workers for the past three months.

The council leaders are demanding that the government consolidate the debts and drastically increase regular and development budgets to bring them in line with allocations given to Jewish local authorities.

The Treasury and the Interior Ministry, however, maintain that allocations are already being greatly increased under agreements signed with the council leaders just two months ago. They have accused the council leaders of not doing enough to boost their own income through proper collection of municipal taxes. The collection rate in the Arab sector is reported to be the lowest in the country with less than 40 percent paying their rates in full.

Suleiman, who is head of Mash'had local council near Nazareth, said the council heads intended to stage a motorcade protest outside government offices in Jerusalem on Sunday.

This would be followed by a meeting of the so-called monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership, including MKs and public figures, to decide whether to call a general strike of the entire Arab sector.

"We have also arranged to meet the Egyptian ambassador next Monday and we intend to send a delegation to UN offices in Geneva next week to outline our problems," said Suleiman.

abroad.

In a related development, some 100 people, including former Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun, demonstrated outside the Sharon Prison at Tel Mond for the release of five Kach activists in administrative detention. The Kach activists were arrested soon after the Hebron massacre on Purim.

"I came here to defend Jews," Begun said. "This is the continuation of my fight in Russia, where people were arrested because of their political opinions. I never thought that here in Israel I would have to continue struggles like these, but I cannot just stand on the sidelines."

Suspected wiretapper out on bail

RAINE MARCUS

ALLEGED wiretapper Honi Mazaki was released on bail by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday in spite of efforts by the District Attorney's Office to keep him in custody until trial.

Mazaki was charged on nine counts of conspiracy and tapping phones on commission by clients, which included private investigators, jealous husbands and businessmen.

Mazaki was arrested three weeks ago together with around 17 other suspects, who allegedly ordered wiretapping services from him. The prosecution alleged that Mazaki makes his living from tapping phones and said he is a danger to the public.

The prosecution claimed that wiretapping has become a nationwide epidemic, but Judge Dalia Keren disagreed: "The suspect is not a danger to the public," she said. "Although the alleged offenses are an invasion of privacy, they do not justify his detention until trial."

Wiretapping is still a misdemeanor, argued defense lawyer Zvi Lidsky, saying it was unacceptable to detain his client until trial. Lidsky also objected to a prosecution request to set a higher bail.

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'An-Nahar' workers ask Arafat to unban paper

WORKERS at the *An-Nahar* daily newspaper have written to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat demanding the right to republish, after he banned the paper a week ago for supporting Jordanian control over Moslem holy places in Jerusalem.

The petition, which was published in the communist daily *A-Talia* by 45 reporters and staff, asked Arafat "to continue along the path of the Palestinian heritage of freedom of speech by allowing *An-Nahar* to publish and distribute throughout beloved Palestine. We must silence the voices which have begun to doubt the democracy of our newborn state."

The employees also requested a meeting with Arafat.

On Tuesday, Arafat said that *An-Nahar* had been closed because "it violated Palestinian law, did not recognize the Palestinian government and had no contact

JON IMMANUEL

with it."

Othman Halak, the owner and editor of the newspaper, did not sign the petition, but told the *Post* that he had been invited to meet Arafat last Sunday but Arafat then canceled the meeting.

Meanwhile, Daoud Kuttub, a leading Palestinian journalist, has been banned by the publisher from writing for *Al-Quds*, the only remaining daily paper across the Green Line. Kuttub, a frequent contributor to *Al-Quds*, told the *Post*, "I've not been fired but I cannot use my byline." He said the owner and editor, Mahmoud Abu Zulfur, told him that "I'd shown more loyalty to *An-Nahar* than to *Al-Quds*."

Abu Zulfur said he would not accept articles by Kuttub because "he is spreading lies about *Al-*

Quds." Kuttub was one of two journalists from *Al-Quds* who signed the petition.

An announcement in *Al-Quds* yesterday said that Hamas plans a big sit-in opposite the Gaza municipality tomorrow to demand freedom of the press, free elections and to protest Arafat's imposition of an all-Fatah council. It will be the first organized Hamas protest against Arafat since his arrival in Gaza five weeks ago.

Last month Arafat fired Mansour Shawwa, his own mayoral appointee, after Shawwa spent seven months putting together a council that included Hamas members, after refusing to appoint only Fatah members. Hamas had joined the council on condition that it would plan municipal elections. Arafat tore up the list. The new mayor, Awad Shawwa, a cousin of Mansour, heads a Fatah list chosen by Arafat.

Peres warns against cutting defense budget

ALON PINKAS and Itim

ONE should be "very cautious about making cuts in the defense budget, the purpose of which is to protect the State of Israel, and about the peace policy, which also needs to be defended," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday in Haifa on a visit to the Bahai community.

Commenting on yesterday's special cabinet session on the defense budget, Peres said the country must be careful to project an image of strength both inwardly and outwardly while negotiating peace, and to do so must be wary of making cuts in the defense budget.

The cabinet, sitting as the Ministerial Defense Committee, discussed the 1995 defense budget, but adjourned without reaching any decisions.

The ministers were briefed by Defense and Treasury officials, who provided often contrasting views

on the size of the budget. This year's defense budget of approximately NIS 20 billion made up about 20 percent of the total budget, not including indirect outlays and some of the annual \$1.8 billion in US military aid.

Defense sources predicted a repeat of the annual ritual of the IDF and Defense Ministry demanding an increase, this time on account of new deployments resulting from the Oslo and Cairo accords and the Washington Declaration with Jordan.

The sources estimate that the 1995 budget will be similar to 1994, with minor adjustments for inflation, domestic buying, and redeployment compensation. The Defense Ministry and the General Staff have already asked for an increase of NIS 500 million.

The cabinet is to reconvene Sunday morning to continue its deliberations on the budget.

Aloni, Sarid agree to decide on primary date together

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MERETZ leader Minister Shulamit Aloni and her rival, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, met privately in Aloni's house last night. They decided that when the time is right to have a primary for the party leadership, they will set the date for the showdown together.

The meeting appears to have reduced the tension between Aloni and Sarid that had reached its peak earlier this week, when Sarid announced he would contend for Meretz's leadership in a primary. The announcement plunged Meretz into turmoil and Aloni blasted him for his "peculiar" timing, maintaining that his move was an attempt to overthrow her, since she had been elected Meretz chairperson for four years.

After last night's meeting, which Aloni said was held in a "good atmosphere," the two agreed that they would continue

their moves to unite Meretz, which is presently a joint Knesset faction of three parties, each of which has its own institutions and leaders.

"We decided that in time, after Meretz is united, we will have a primary and we will set the date together," said Aloni.

Aloni also spoke out in favor of uniting Meretz with MK Haim Ramon's list, noting that this idea proved successful in the Histadrut elections, and there was no reason why it should not bring Meretz victory in the Knesset elections as well.

Asked whether this would not bring about a rivalry for leadership among Ramon Sarid and herself, she said "a movement which wants to grow, and has already augmented its power together with Ramon, would want to do that again. But it is too early to go into that now."

Railways offer monthly pass for Tel Aviv-Netanya line

Monthly passes are now available for train travel between Netanya and Tel Aviv. With a ticket costing NIS 182 passengers can travel as often as they wish during the month.

Fifty-nine passenger trains run daily between Tel Aviv and Netanya, some being modern railcars with comfortable seats and air-conditioning. If the monthly passes prove successful, Israel Railways will consider introducing them on the Rehovot-Tel Aviv line.

Gaza produce to be inspected

JUDY SIEGEL

NOW that the Gaza border has been opened to the free movement of produce, shoppers here will not know if the fruit and vegetables they are buying are from Gaza or Israel.

While some vegetables were smuggled in before the border was opened, they were only sold in small quantities, mainly in open markets.

Brian Cousin, head of the Health Ministry's Food Service Division, said last night that he was "not very worried" about the import of poor quality produce from Gaza, since lab tests will be performed on samples.

While few Gaza farmers use sewage water to irrigate crops, Cousin said that contamination of water is common. Supermarkets and private fruit and vegetable stores are unlikely to buy Gaza produce, since its quality is lower than local produce.

Government inspectors at the checkpoints will look at samples of fish, poultry and meat on the spot. These products will soon be allowed in from Gaza. Eggs will also have to be checked, although the Health Ministry has years of connections with local health officials in Gaza. As for manufactured products, such as sweets, Israeli officials are familiar with the quality of goods made in Gaza.

Government inspectors will take samples from one out of every five lorries en route to Israel, said Cousin. "A kilo will be taken from each; one sample will go for checking of pesticides, while another to the microbiology lab in Beersheba. If any samples are found contaminated or otherwise unacceptable, suppliers will be located and their products will not be allowed over the border," Cousin declared.

FBI probing Hizbullah activities in US

HILLEL KUTTILER
WASHINGTON

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation is monitoring suspected Hizbullah agents in the US, out of concern they may act against Jewish targets here and attempt to duplicate the recent wave of bombings.

FBI director Louis Freeh told Jewish representatives this week that "there seem to be cells of Hizbullah" here. Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations executive vice chairman Malcolm Hoenelein said following the meeting, Freeh divided Hizbullah activists here into groups of political extremists and moderates, with each occupying distinct geographic areas in the country, Hoenelein said.

"We and the director and the agency have concern with respect to further episodes which may mirror" last month's Buenos

Aires, Panama and London bombings, he said, adding that FBI officials "see the connection" between those acts and US extremists.

The Jewish groups and the FBI agreed to work to seek legislation tightening immigration controls on potential radical elements, Hoenelein said following the 90-minute meeting at FBI headquarters here.

The FBI and CIA counter-terrorism officials have been jointly investigating Hizbullah activity here in a bid to head off a potential attack, he said. However, no specific threats against Jewish groups have come to the bureau's attention since the one last week, nor did the FBI suggest what precautions should be taken, Conference chairman Lester Pollack said following the meeting.

Report: Capital has policy of limiting Arab construction

BILL HUTMAN

AN internal Jerusalem Municipality report detailing a policy of "limiting housing development of the Arab sector" in the city has been obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*.

The report, "from just before Mayor Ehud Olmert took office but according to senior city officials still relevant today, reveals that since 1967 only 12 percent of new homes built in the city were for Arabs.

"The Arab population in Jerusalem suffers from a severe housing shortage. That shortage is the direct result of a planning policy limiting Arab building in Jerusalem," the report states.

It states that the attempt to keep down the Arab population by restricting building has largely failed, and that as a percentage of the total population the Arab population of the city continues to grow.

The policy makers... failed to take into consideration, for whatever reason, that restricting construction, does not lower the birth rate and the [illegal] immigration from the West Bank [Hebron area] to Jerusalem.

The report, titled "The Housing Shortage in Jerusalem's Arab Sector," details three central measures taken by the city to keep down housing construction for

Arab residents, largely through restrictive zoning in their neighborhoods.

Zoning plans for Arab neighborhoods normally allow for less construction per meter than in Jewish neighborhoods and rarely permit high rise buildings, the report states.

Large areas of eastern Jerusalem are also zoned as "green areas" off-limits to development, in order to prevent the expansion of Arab neighborhoods, according to the report. The city spokesman was unavailable for comment.

Mayor Ehud Olmert in recent statements has vowed to ease the housing crunch in the Arab sector of the city, blaming the situation on his predecessor, Teddy Kollek.

However, no specific plans for Arab housing development in eastern Jerusalem have yet been announced by the municipality.

The report also addresses the state's policy towards Arab housing in Jerusalem, saying consecutive governments have limited and continue to limit the construction of new homes in the Arab sector.

"Given this policy, it should not be a surprise that the wave of illegal construction in the Arab sector grows from day to day," the report states. It does not, however, give figures on illegal construction.

1 killed, 3 hurt in road accidents

A SOLDIER was killed in Netanya early yesterday when he lost control of his car and crashed into a utility pole. A passenger suffered serious injuries and was brought to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva.

Eli Manshrov, 19, was driving on Ben-Gurion Boulevard at about 1 a.m. when he veered onto the median strip. He then tried to swing back onto the road, but did so too sharply and crashed into the pole on the right side of the road. Police said they suspect Manshrov was speeding.

Yesterday afternoon, the passenger, Aryeh Bermeli, remained in a coma with head injuries.

In the Arava, four vacationers returning north from Eilat were injured yesterday afternoon when a car veered out of its lane and crashed into the side of a truck. Two passengers, 22 and 18, sustained serious injuries and the other two, 18 and 15, moderate injuries. They were all taken by helicopter to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital.

Police suspect the driver fell asleep at the wheel.

Shahal downplays Abed-Rabbo visit

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday that too much was made of the clandestine visit by Palestinian Authority member Yasser Abed-Rabbo to Jerusalem.

According to a senior security source, neither the police nor army had any idea that Abed-Rabbo was in the city until the visit was reported on the news.

"The problem is not the visit," Shahal told reporters yesterday. "We made peace with the Palestinians, and it is not a question of being allowed in or not."

Rather, Shahal said, Abed-Rabbo should have coordinated the visit with Israel beforehand. He would almost certainly have been permitted into Jerusalem, and even been given the special treatment due to a foreign dignitary, Shahal said.

Abed-Rabbo on Wednesday passed through army checkpoints unnoticed and entered Jerusalem, visiting the Temple Mount and other sites in eastern Jerusalem before leaving.

Senegal renews ties with Israel

Jerusalem Post Staff

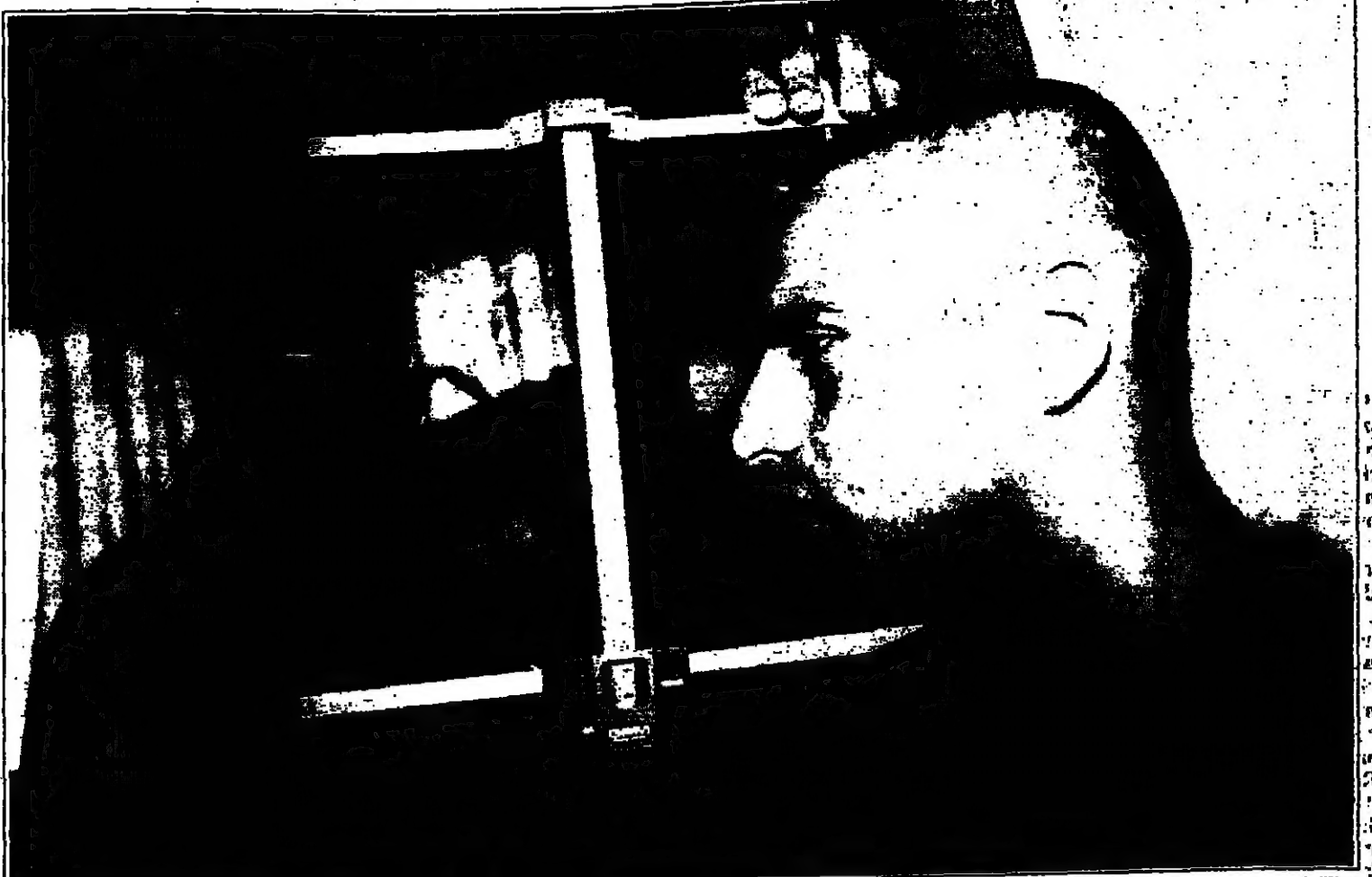
SENEGAL and Israel renewed diplomatic relations yesterday, the countries announced in a joint communiqué.

Senegal broke its ties with Israel after the Yom Kippur War.

With the addition of Senegal, Israel now has relations with 35 black African countries, Ghana and Tanzania are expected to resume ties soon, Foreign Ministry officials say.

Senegal, a mostly Moslem nation in West Africa, has problems with desertification, an area in which Israel has offered its expertise.

Last week, Uganda and Cape Verde resumed relations with Israel.



A new recruit has his skull measured at the Bakum absorption base at Tel Hashomer yesterday, apparently as part of IDF research into what constitutes the proverbial military 'rosh katan' or small head. (Ilan Oshendri/Israel Sun)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nazareth man murdered

Mazan Hajar, 36, of Nazareth was stabbed and fatally wounded yesterday afternoon in the town's main square by two assailants who fled. He was taken to the nearby English Hospital, where he died shortly afterward. Police, who said the motivation for the murder was criminal, arrested two suspects later in the day. Hajar is survived by his wife and seven children.

'Shishi' weekly ceases publication

The last issue of the weekly *Shishi* appears today, marking the end of its eight-month career as "your second weekend paper." The board of directors of *Globes*, which owns the paper, announced the decision late Wednesday night and informed the staff of dismissals yesterday.

Shishi arose from the ashes of both *Ha'alam Hazeh* and *Hadashot*, when they closed in early December. Its circulation was 25,000 copies weekly, far from *Hadashot's* 60,000. The paper reportedly lost an estimated NIS 500,000 each week.

The Media and Entertainment section, edited by Adam Baruch, will apparently continue to appear as a Thursday supplement to *Globes*.

Meshakem to cancel planned layoffs

Meshakem said yesterday it would cancel plans for the time being to fire hundreds of workers and close several factories, after the rehabilitation company received a NIS 2.7 million cash injection from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Minister Ora Namir decided to grant the funds at a special meeting held in her home yesterday.

The company had announced plans to fire 600 of its 3,600 workers.

A-G must explain Sheves decision twice

The High Court of Justice yesterday issued another show-cause order in the case of director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Shimon Sheves, giving the attorney-general 45 days to explain why he is not investigating Sheves for interfering in the investigation of MK Aryeh Delfi.

The order was issued in response to a petition by Likud central committee member Gil Samsonov. A similar order was issued on Tuesday in response to a petition by Amital - Citizens for Good Government.

Group saves stray dogs from IDF's rifles

Some 20 dogs and puppies were saved from death yesterday when the SOS Animals welfare group persuaded an army base to give its volunteers the stray canines rather than shoot them.

A girl soldier at the Sde Teman camp in the north called the group when she learned her commanding officer had ordered the stray dogs killed.

The animals have been checked by a veterinarian and are temporarily living with SOS volunteers. After a 10-day rabies quarantine period, the dogs will be looking for good new homes, said spokeswoman Efrat Yinon. Details at 09-582 103.

Travel agent arrested for theft

A travel agency employee suspected of stealing NIS 300,000 from his employers over a three-year period was remanded for five days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Ariel Arviv, 43, of Ramat Gan, was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport by Tel Aviv Fraud Squad detectives when he tried to leave the country.

Police alleged he sold "Single Tours" air tickets to company clients and friends, but instead of transferring payments to the company, he pocketed large sums of cash.

Wakf complains to Jordan, PLO about planned project near Temple Mount

BILL HUTMAN

WAKF officials have contacted the Jordanian government and PLO to protest plans by the Jerusalem Municipality and Tourism Ministry to develop a tourist project near the Temple Mount.

"We are warning the Israelis not to do anything. This is a dangerous question, a political question, and we hope they will be more sensitive," Wakf director Adnan Hussein said yesterday.

The municipality Wednesday night approved the second stage of the controversial project, along the Ophel Road and Kidron Valley in the City of David section of Silwan, on land the Wakf and Arab residents claim.

Hussein told the *Post* that city

officials had informed him about the project before Wednesday, and that he already appealed to Jordanian and PLO intervention to halt the work.

Officials with the municipality-controlled East Jerusalem Development Authority said the land being developed was largely state land, although small areas had been expropriated through the proper legal channels.

The officials confirmed Hussein's allegations that they hoped to expropriate a large tract of Wakf land between the Ophel Road and Temple Mount, but at a later stage.

"We are not going to accept this project, because it does not take into consideration our feelings and is not for our benefit," Hussein said.

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Riots hit Iranian city for second day

SHARIF IMAM-JOMEH
TEHRAN

PEOPLE in the Iranian city of Qazvin clashed with police for a second day yesterday, throwing rocks in response to gunfire, over demands that it be turned into a province, residents said.

"People have gathered in Vali-e Asr and Sabzeh-Meydan squares and there are clashes with the police," one journalist in Qazvin told Reuters as gunfire could be heard down the telephone.

"People want to express their demands calmly, but when the police shoot, they throw rocks in response," he said.

Riots first broke out in the city 150 km (90 miles) northwest of Tehran on Wednesday after parliament rejected a bill to separate it from Zanjan province by a vote of 105-103.

Residents said the rioters on Wednesday smashed windows of banks and government offices and set the finance department building on fire. They burned tires in the streets and shooting echoed around the city.

Yesterday the government tried to appease Qazvin by announcing that their city was separated from Zanjan and joined with Tehran province.

But the journalist said the radio announcement quoting Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati in the early afternoon appeared to calm down the protests only slightly.

"The people are shouting: 'Neither Zanjan, Nor Tehran; Independence, Independence,'" he said.

He said many people had been arrested on Wednesday and several buildings were gutted, but he

knew of no deaths.

Unlike the first day, many people yesterday were saying that the protest should be kept non-violent, but the crowds reacted when police attacked them, said residents.

Rivalry among cities that want to have direct access to the center of power in Tehran is not uncommon.

Until now Qazvin has had to conduct its official business with Tehran through the city of Zanjan. Its funds from the central government also had to pass through Zanjan.

Joining Tehran provides better access to the capital for Qazvin, but falls short of becoming an independent province, which would have increased its influence and provided more jobs.

Qazvin, with a population of 750,000, is a main industrial city and lies on the main highways from the Turkish and Azerbaijani borders to Tehran used for overland imports.

In the past few years only one new province has been set up - Ardebil north of Zanjan - taking the country's total to 25.

Jahan-e Eslam newspaper said President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on a recent visit to Qazvin had promised the city would become a province, so Qazvinis felt cheated by the vote.

Tehran newspapers reported the disturbances as a protest by residents who gathered in front of the home of Qazvin Friday Prayer Leader, Hadi Barikbin, who urged them to pursue their demands through lawful channels.

Nigerian general strike suspended

LAGOS (Reuters) - Nigeria's biggest labor federation suspended its general strike yesterday but oil unions vowed to continue the industrial campaign in pursuit of democracy.

Both the Nigerian Labor Congress, which called off its two-day-old action, and the oil unions want the immediate release of detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola.

The 3.5 million-strong NLC told its striking members to return to work while its leadership pursues negotiations with Nigeria's military rulers on labor's political demands.

NUPENG, the blue-collar oil workers union, which initiated the strikes on July 4, and its senior partner PENGASSAN, said their strike would continue.

Oil is Nigeria's economic mainstay and the action by the two unions has disrupted fuel supplies as well as exports. It has pushed

up world oil prices, with nervous markets watching every twist of the saga.

Yesterday IPE Brent crude oil futures climbed back from a sudden, sharp drop, revived by the reaffirmation of their own strike by the oil workers.

September Brent was five cents firmer from Wednesday night's close at \$18.49 a barrel at 1444 GMT, after tumbling to a low of \$18.15 on the NLC's suspension of its two day old strike.

The NLC announced its decision after a meeting of its central working committee (CWC).

Its leaders then headed for the inland capital Abuja and were due to meet Nigerian military rulers late in the day.

One said he was hopeful the government would agree to free Abiola and other people detained since May when the campaign to end military rule in Nigeria started.

Clinton condemns new Haiti violence

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Clinton administration condemned new violence in Haiti yesterday, saying it proves the rationale for the UN resolution authorizing an invasion.

The Senate, meanwhile, urged Clinton to hold off on military force. Administration spokesmen blamed the attacks in Haiti, including the fatal shooting of two men found Wednesday, on the military regime that overthrew the country's elected government almost three years ago.

"The shooting of Senator Georges yesterday and the incidents that we're aware of today certainly are very troubling, and we condemn that type of violence,

and that type of violence points precisely to the remedy that the United Nations has now adopted," said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry.

Yesterday Clinton said he was not constitutionally mandated to get the US Congress' assent should he decide to invade Haiti, and said it was premature to ask for permission now.

"I think we have done all we need to do," Clinton said. "I don't want to cross that bridge until we come to it. It is premature, in my judgment, to go beyond that now."

But he said it was important to "keep on the table the option of forceably removing the dictators who have abused their powers..."



Three Bosnian Serb truck drivers walk by their trucks on the closed Yugoslav-Bosnian border crossing at Sremska Raca. (AP)

Belgrade cuts ties with Bosnian Serbs

News agencies
SARAJEVO

YUGOSLAVIA said yesterday it was cutting all political and economic ties to Bosnian Serbs over their rejection of the latest international peace plan as a power struggle among Serbs escalated.

Rump Yugoslavia, which comprises Serbia and Montenegro, said it would bar entry for all leaders of the Serb-held territory in Bosnia, including members of its self-declared parliament, presidency and government, the government said in a statement quoted by the Tanjug state news agency.

Belgrade closed the border between Yugoslavia and Bosnia to all supplies except food, clothes and medicine. A similar ban was announced in May 1993, but it was barely enforced.

"The leadership of the (Bosnian Serb self-declared) Republic of Srpska, by rejecting peace, has committed the most serious act against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Serbian and Montenegrin people and all citizens who live in these territories," the statement said.

The rump Yugoslavia - consisting of Serbia and Montenegro - is suffering under international sanctions imposed for its crucial support for Serbs in Bosnia.

The sponsors of the latest peace plan, which would require Serbs to surrender some of the territory conquered in Bosnia, have threatened to toughen measures against Belgrade unless the Serbs accepted the proposal.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the region's power broker, is widely viewed as the chief instigator of the ethnic war in Bosnia and the earlier war in Croatia. But he apparently now wants to stave off further economic ruin that could jeopardize his hold on power.

Milosevic urged Bosnian Serbs to dump their leaders, whom he branded "war profiteers." He said they had jeopardized their own people and broken many previous promises to stop fighting.

In Geneva Islamic foreign ministers yesterday urged the immediate lifting of Bosnia's Muslim-led government of the international ban on the supply of arms to former Yugoslav republics.

Meeting in their "contact group" on the Bosnian conflict, the ministers also called for tougher sanctions against rump Yugoslavia over links with the Bosnian Serbs despite Belgrade's decision to sever ties with its one-time protectors.

The calls were made in speeches to the group - an organ of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) - and were repeated in the draft of a resolution expected to be adopted unanimously at the end of the meeting.

Hamid Algabid, Pakistani Secretary-General of the OIC, set the tone in an opening address to the ministers - from Bangladesh, Bosnia, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

First scheduled triple execution in US in 32 years

VARNER, Ark. (AP) - The first of three killers scheduled for execution early yesterday night was put to death after declining to make a final statement. The other two men were expected to follow him within hours.

"Nope," was all Hoyt Cline said when asked if he had any last words. Then he was strapped to a gurney and a lethal dose of drugs was injected into his body.

Just minutes earlier, a federal appeals court had lifted a stay of execution granted for another of the three condemned men, James Holmes, and he was to be executed after Cline.

Holmes, 37; Cline, 37; and Darrell Richley, 43, were scheduled to die one by one for killing a businessman in front of his family during a 1981 robbery.

The three convicts were the first scheduled triple execution in the United States in 32 years.

Cline was pronounced dead at 7:11 p.m. local time, a state prison official announced. An appeal on his behalf had been denied by the US Supreme Court at 6:55 p.m.

Two other appeals - one on behalf of all three men, the other for Richley - were also denied by the Supreme Court.

The three men had all argued in their last-hour appeal that they were being reduced to "hogs

at a slaughter."

The executions were planned 45 to 60 minutes apart - enough time to carry the body out in a bag, wipe down the gurney and change the needle before the next man is brought in.

The order of their executions was determined by their prison serial numbers - Cline SK886; Holmes SK887; Richley SK888.

"This scheduled mass execution, by reducing human beings to hogs at the slaughter, will exponentially increase the level of fear, uncertainty and psychological stress that someone condemned normally experiences in the usual course of death," the inmates said in their appeal.

They also argued that it is unconstitutional for the state to "assess who they think is worthy of another hour or two of life."

The state has said that multiple executions reduce overtime and stress on employees. "Nobody wants to get up in the morning and go to work and see a man being killed," Correction Department spokesman Alan Ables said earlier this year.

The victim, Don Lehman, was beaten with a motorcycle chain and shot in the chest and head by four masked men who forced their way into his home, chased him down and held him on a bed. His wife was on the bedroom floor at the time.

Canadian WWII show sparks row over UK bombing of Germany

LONDON (Reuters) - Veterans have failed in a rearguard action to force off the air a Canadian documentary about the World War II campaign to bomb Germany into submission, British television chiefs said yesterday.

They said a two-hour program looking at the role played in the bombing of German civilian targets by 50,000 Canadian airmen will be screened as planned on British television on Sunday despite scores of protests.

The program, already shown in Canada, highlights the decision of the British head of Bomber Command, Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, to switch to civilian targets from industrial sites, and says he aimed to kill as many Germans as possible.

Alan Hayling, deputy commissioning editor of Channel Four television, said about 100 ex-

members of Bomber Command have written to protest about the decision to screen the documentary, *Death by Moonlight*.

In addition the office of the Queen Mother who was herself queen during the war, had passed on letters asking her to use her influence to get the program stopped.

The 94-year-old matriarch, mother of the present queen, is the widow of George VI, Britain's monarch during World War Two.

But Hayling said Channel Four decided to go ahead with the program after legal checks, and after scheduling a special "Right to Reply" program to allow critics to have their say.

Brian McKenna, who made the program, told a news conference: "There is a small number of air crew willing to fall on their sword to defend Bomber Harris and I am

Two injured in S. African schoolbus ambush

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Gunmen firing AK-47s ambushed a minibus carrying schoolchildren yesterday, wounding two people in the latest attack in a violent crime wave sweeping the Johannesburg area.

Neither of the injuries was serious, and it was not known if the attack was politically motivated or an attempt to steal the minibus. The gunmen fled into nearby corn fields, and four were later arrested, police said.

In the past week eight police officers have been killed in Johannesburg and its suburbs, prompting security officials to announce anti-crime measures that include roadblocks and raids.

A man claiming to be from a militant black organization told a Johannesburg newspaper Wednesday night it was responsible for the police killings. "We are still going to target more and more whites of the state machinery until President (Nelson) Mandela comes to his senses," the man told The Citizen. He demanded Mandela free all black political prisoners.

The man claimed to be from a previously unheard-of group, People's Concern. There was no way to verify the authenticity of the claim.

Police officers were frequent targets of political murders before Mandela became the country's first black president after April elections. Black militants accused them of supporting the apartheid government.

A police spokeswoman said it was impossible to say if the schoolbus attack was politically motivated. She did not know the names of the attackers or all the bus passengers. The driver and one of the wounded were white.

The minibus driver had picked up a group of children from a farm south of Johannesburg and was heading toward their school in Heidelberg, about 75 km from the city, when the gunmen appeared at the roadside and began shooting.

The driver sped off and alerted police, who were searching on foot and with helicopters. A man and a 7-year-old boy in the bus were injured by glass sent flying when a bullet shattered a window. Their injuries were not serious.

Germans puzzled by Kohl's grand coalition remarks

ANALYSIS
RICHARD MURPHY

WAS it the heat, a slip of the tongue or political calculation that prompted Chancellor Helmut Kohl to think out loud about the possibility of a grand coalition with Social Democratic (SPD) rivals?

Allies and opponents of the veteran German Christian Democrat (CDU) leader wonder at the motives behind his remark that a grand coalition is a theoretical possibility after elections in October, made in a television interview this week during Kohl's holiday in Austria.

"It was a summer slip of the tongue, probably caused by the heat," said Otto Lambdorff, economics spokesman for the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), who have been Kohl's junior partners in government since 1982.

The CDU, which is ahead of the SPD in most opinion polls, tried to limit the damage by stressing Kohl's commitment to continuing the center-right coalition after the election on October 16.

It played down his other remarks as a mere statement of the obvious about what could happen if neither the left nor right win a clear majority. "The chancellor expressed his confidence that voters will give the present coalition a governing majority on October 16," CDU general secretary Peter Hintze said.

Kohl briskly dismissed all coalition speculation during a lightning tour of east German

seaside resorts yesterday, asking journalists: "Who's spreading this nonsense?"

But other politicians have taken his remarks seriously. The FDP, struggling for survival after humiliating losses in regional and European elections, was outraged that Kohl had acknowledged that it could be left out in the cold if Germany's two largest parties get together.

There are already precedents in the state governments of Berlin and Baden-Wuerttemberg, where the CDU and SPD are united in loveless marriages of convenience.

The SPD said it was determined to get rid of Kohl and would not help him cling to power in a grand coalition. It said his remarks are evidence that his time is up.

Some commentators saw Kohl's remark that "all democratic parties" should in principle be prepared to work together as a swipe at the SPD's decision to establish a minority coalition with the Greens in an east German state, which depends for survival on support from the reformed communists.

The CDU has made this an election issue,

accusing the SPD of planning a similar "leftist front" in Bonn.

Newspaper commentators were divided in their interpretation of the interview.

Berlin's Tagesspiegel said the country's most experienced party leader had broken a taboo by acknowledging honestly that a grand coalition might become inevitable.

"He is demonstrating not just the fact that democrats must stand together but, by not ruling out the possibility that he might lead such an enforced alliance, also his will to remain in power," the newspaper said.

Other commentators concluded that the 64-year-old chancellor had simply let his guard drop while relaxing on holiday.

"Kohl's comments were risky," said the Stuttgarter Zeitung newspaper.

The received wisdom in Bonn has been that Kohl would remain chancellor in a grand coalition if the CDU became largest party, but would step down rather than serve under the SPD's Rudolf Scharping.

Kohl was tantalizingly unforthcoming about what his own role might be in such circumstances, saying he had not given it any thought because he did not expect it to happen.

"Everyone tends to think he is irreplaceable," he said. "I don't. I have become much more modest in my ideas about myself."

Van Cliburn's mother dies at 97

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - She began teaching her son to read musical notes before he could read words. She gave him a lyrical, romantic style that she learned from a pupil of Franz Liszt.

By the time Rildia Bee O'Bryan Cliburn died yesterday in Fort Worth, Texas, at age 97, she had seen her son, Van, become the most celebrated American pianist in history.

With her son at her bedside, Mrs. Cliburn died at All Saints Episcopal Hospital. She suffered a stroke yesterday, and when she took a turn for the worse Tuesday, Cliburn halted his first concert tour in 16 years and chartered a

plane home from New York.

Cliburn, who created a sensation by winning the Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow during the height of the Cold War, dedicated Tuesday night's concert at the Metropolitan Opera House to that "noble lady. She is a great pianist, but an Olympically great teacher," he told the audience.

Rildia Bee (pronounced rill-dah bee) O'Bryan studied the piano at the Juilliard School of Music under Arthur Friedheim, a student of Liszt, the legendary 19th century pianist and composer. Her parents wouldn't let her pursue a concert career. She turned to teaching and married

oilman Harvey Levan Cliburn.

Her prize student was her son, who was born in Louisiana and grew up in Texas. She began teaching Van when he was 3, and he was able to read notes before he could read words.

"Van was so teachable, and always so respectful, and so quick to learn," she said in a 1958 interview with Newsweek magazine. "When he was taking his piano lessons, I always told him to consider me as a teacher, not as a mother. You get better results that way."

She nurtured the 19th-century romantic style and remained his sole piano teacher until he entered Juilliard at age 17.

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Islamic terrorists' open war

FRENCH Embassy residences in Algiers became the latest target of Muslim fanatics on Wednesday. Five people were killed in the open attack, and many more had a lucky escape when Algerian security forces defused the car bomb that was to climax the assault on the heavily-guarded complex housing 70 embassy staff.

Like the Buenos Aires and London car bombs, the attack in Algeria brought back memories of the bombings that destroyed the French and US embassies and the US Marine barracks in Beirut at the height of Syrian-Iranian terrorism. More than 350 people were killed and thousands wounded in those attacks.

Since the beginning of the current fundamentalist uprising in Algeria, more than 3,000 people have been killed. In July alone, seven Italians had their throats cut, and seven eastern European workers were gunned down. Since last September, 56 foreigners have been murdered, 15 of them French.

Indeed, one of the most frightening aspects of Islamic terrorism has been its utter dedication to indiscriminate carnage. London police, for example, said they were shocked by the Islamic terrorists' bombs at the Israeli Embassy, because of the total disregard for civilian casualties. In Buenos Aires, too, the toll could have easily exceeded the 100 killed in the Jewish center had another bomb — placed in a hospital where the wounded were treated — not been discovered in time.

It does not require intelligence reports for an ordinary observer to deduce that the style and pattern of the operations drew inspiration and technical aid from a central source whose methods have long been familiar.

Yet the most astonishing aspect of this wave of terrorism is not that the terrorists are ruthless fanatics, but that the West is so lax in combating them. Tunisian President Zine Ben Ali has pointed out one aspect of the West's long fawning after the Islamic world, irrespective of its regimes, mainly for economic reasons. He said bluntly on Tuesday that the West has allowed Islamic fanatics to abuse its democratic freedoms just as surely as the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front abused the democratic elections held in Algeria.

"Fundamentalism is now your problem," he said. "I mean the problem of Paris, London, and Washington. France, Britain, and the United States are being used as rear bases for fundamentalist terrorists... In the name of freedom and democracy, you are giving asylum to the enemies of freedom and democracy." It is a valid point. There is absolutely nothing in democratic philosophies that obliges free states to continue giving asylum and sanctuary to terrorists disguised as

refugees, students, mullahs, or business people. Even more discouraging is that the Western countries have allowed economic considerations to dictate policies towards states which sponsor Islamic terrorism. All intelligence agencies in the West know that the wellspring of terrorism is now Iran, and that the Iranian-sponsored Hizbullah and other terrorist groups are acting under Syrian supervision and control. They train in Syrian-ruled territory and get their arms either from Iran through Damascus or directly from the Syrian Army.

Less known is that much of the financing of Islamic terror groups comes from the Saudis. Hamas in the territories, the Algerian fundamentalists, and Hizbullah in Lebanon all get funds from Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the Saudis are acting as spoilers in the multilateral talks between Israel and the Arab states. Saudi representatives on the Regional Arms Control Committee have obstructed several proposals for regional cooperation. At the meeting in Qatar — which so encouraged Israel to believe change in the attitude of the states of the Arabian peninsula was around the corner — the Saudis took the toughest positions, pulling the Palestinians with them. And it is mostly because of the Saudis' stubborn refusal to abolish the Arab boycott against Israel that it is still very much in force.

Yet the West is not only trading with terror-sponsoring countries, but supplying them with advanced weaponry. The most disturbing of recent developments in this area is the Clinton administration's announcement that it will sell an American photographic satellite to the Saudis.

As Ha'aretz military commentator Ze'ev Schiff has put it, "The purchase of a photography satellite can give the Arabs intelligence capabilities they currently do not possess... [It] represents a shift in the balance of power in favor of the Arab side. This is a clear violation of the promise, given by several American presidents, to safeguard Israel's qualitative edge."

The reason for the American action is abundantly clear: the satellite is a major, lucrative sale. But to enable regimes that support terrorists to become strategic superpowers is shortsighted and insane. Islamic fanaticism and its state sponsors are not at war only with Israel. They are in open warfare against all aspects of Western culture and democracy.

One can only wonder what it will take — in addition to the bombings in New York, Buenos Aires, Panama, and London — to make Westerners who sell arms to such regimes realize that fundamentalist terrorism, as Ben Ali put it, is their problem now, and that the lives they endanger may be their own.

MEIR ROMMEN © 94



The fear of missing the train

CHAIM HERZOG

IN the 1950s, I commanded the Jerusalem Brigade and met frequently and publicly with my Jordanian opposite numbers. A direct telephone line between me and my Jordanian counterpart linked us both in our offices and in our homes. In my discussions with them, a very clear picture emerged of the very difficult situation the king was in, with the intrigues of Nasser in Egypt and those of the Syrians.

Abba Eban was quoted as saying, rightly, this week that, in all probability, Hussein would have preferred a Middle East without Israel. But as the years went by, he became the first Arab leader to appreciate that there was no point in pursuing the campaign to destroy Israel. Indeed, he gradually began to appreciate Israel's importance as an element guaranteeing the Hashemite throne.

In 1970, when Jordan was threatened by Syria, Henry Kissinger orchestrated military moves and demonstrations of power by the IDF along the Syrian border. All this was linked to the coordinated moves of the US fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean, with the purpose of saving the Jordanian Army.

When I served as director of military intelligence, I attended a meeting on the border in September 1960. It was with the king's aide-de-camp, and at the urgent request of the Jordanians.

The prime minister of Jordan, Haz'el-Majali, a relative of the king, had just been murdered by Syrian intelligence agents (Syria was then part of the United Arab Republic, under Egyptian leadership). He was killed by a bomb introduced into his office at a time when the king was allegedly expected to visit the building.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform us that the king, intent on revenge, had concentrated his army along his northern border with Syria. The Jordanians wanted to be sure of their flank with Israel and their rear.

I took this request to David Ben-Gurion, who was in Sede Boker. He immediately authorized me to promise the Jordanians a tranquil border. The ambassadors of the US and Britain sat

up all night, and finally talked the king out of his proposed incursion into Syria.

All through the years until 1967, the State of Israel had a central red line as far as Jordan was concerned: the crossing of foreign, namely Iraqi, forces to the West Bank of the Jordan, would be a casus belli.

On more than one occasion, Iraqi forces concentrated in Jordan constituted a threat to Israel.

On the contrary, now, after 50 years, would seem the time to abolish the special status of "refugee," with all it implies, to close down the UN camps after suitable arrangements have been made for the inhabitants and make all the residents of these camps free and equal citizens of the places in which they live: Jordan, the autonomous region, Lebanon and other Arab states.

If the problem is perpetuated, it

Assad will come to Israel, in time. The wooing must stop

In later years, the "red line" was designed to prevent the entry of Iraqi forces into Jordan.

It now seems reasonable for Israel, as a central defense requirement, to expect an undertaking that foreign forces will not be allowed in the sovereign territory of Jordan. Let us not forget that as recently as 1989, Iraq flew reconnaissance flights along the Jordan-Israel border.

I FAIL to understand why the subject of the 1967 refugees from the West Bank had to be included in our talks with the Arabs.

Israel discussed the matter in June and July 1967, when the return to the West Bank of those who had left in the course of the fighting was approved. The government reiterated its agreement to their return at least twice, and tens of thousands took advantage of this permission to return to the West Bank (see Shlomo Gazit's book *The Carrot and the Stick*).

Yet, strangely enough, the subject was returned to the agenda in the Oslo agreement, and again in the Washington agreement. The original sin goes back to the major error made in introducing the subject into the Camp David agreements. Its significance is evident; and it is beyond me why Israel has agreed to the refugee issue being put on the agenda yet again.

will be a very dangerous powder keg in our midst.

For years, the Arab states consciously maintained this situation as an integral part of their struggle against the State of Israel — when the earnings from one week's supply of Arab oil could have solved the entire problem.

Another subject which has already been resolved and is being raised again is the Temple Mount and the holy places in Jerusalem.

In June 1967, public commitments on freedom of religious worship were given by then prime minister Levi Eshkol, minister of defense Moshe Dayan, and myself, as the first military governor of the West Bank.

On Wednesday, June 14, 1967, on Shavuot, as some 200,000 Jews were making their pilgrimage to the newly liberated Western Wall, a group led by Moshe Dayan and including the OC Central Command, Maj.-Gen. Uzi Narkiss, visited al-Aksa Mosque and met with the Wakf leadership. We removed our shoes and sat on the floor.

Moshe Dayan asked the Moslem leaders if they had any special requests. They asked for permission to return the Moslem police immediately to the Temple Mount. Dayan agreed, and the Wakf continued to be responsible, as it has been over the generations, for administering the Mos-

lem holy sites.

In July 1988, King Hussein announced the cutting off of the West Bank from the Hashemite kingdom; but he specifically maintained the special relationship between Jordan and the Temple Mount, and its responsibility for the Wakf.

Some 2,500 employees of the Wakf have continued to receive their salaries from the government of Jordan. Thus, in effect, the Washington agreement on this issue faithfully reflects the status quo on the Temple Mount.

There has been a bewildering development in multilateral meetings in the area, and an acceptance by Arab states of relations with Israel and the presence of Israelis in their capitals. All this carries its own dynamism.

King Hussein understood, and joined the train for fear of missing it.

For the same reason, it would appear that the pressure to move toward a rapid agreement with Syria could be counterproductive.

This constant wooing of Syria should stop. Let Assad stew in his own juice; the daily realities of Israeli relations with Jordan and with the Palestinians, not to mention other parts of the Arab world, are creating new facts and new realities.

Assad, in the final analysis, will want to enter into dialogue with Israel in place of allowing — and perhaps sponsoring — a wave of terror mounted from Lebanon against Israel, American involvement and financial support, together with support and aid from many other countries, must in the end, whet Assad's appetite.

He cannot remain on the sidelines, because he knows what is good for him. Aware that Damascus is only too visible from the peak of Mt. Hermon, he does not, apart from supporting terror, at the moment have the option of threatening Israel.

No word in the lexicon can describe recent developments better than "historic." But we dare not allow euphoria to dull our senses to Israel's vital interests, which we must guard jealously.

The writer was Israel's sixth president.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STRANGE TOURIST POLICY IN JERICHO

Sir, — I was traveling on July 11 with a group of tourists down to Jericho on the road through Wadi Kelt. We reached the St. George lookout without incident, and then passed the steps leading down to the monastery. About 200 meters beyond that point, we encountered an IDF roadblock with soldiers and an officer.

The officer asked me whether the people in my bus were Jews or Christians. I, not knowing better, told the truth: they were a synagogue group from the US. Then, he said, they can't go this way. Only Christians are allowed into Jericho by this road. We pulled our bus off the road and watched while the bus behind us, full of German tourists, went smoothly by.

So we drove back up to the main road, and down to the Jericho junction.

Sir, — There has indeed been a lot of mudslinging during Mr. Rabin's first two years in office (Susan Hattis Rolet, "Friendly Fire," J.P., July 21) but it did not come from the opposition whose reaction to the government's sell-out policy vis-a-vis the PLO has been remarkably restrained and civilized.

By attributing most of Israel's problems to their Likud predecessors Messrs. Rabin and Peres themselves have been conducting a mudslinging campaign against their political opponents, singling out the settlers as the epitome of everything that is undesirable in Israeli society.

Opposition MKS critical of the government have been accused of verbal hooliganism, or charged with advocating population transfer (of Arabs) when government ministers have quite openly demanded the removal of Jews from Hebron. Much more vitriolic verbal attacks, often on a personal level, by government supporters on opposition personalities on

tion. A few hundred meters north of the corner, we encountered another roadblock. This time it was an officer of the Border Police. Sorry, this is an Egged bus, and Egged busses are not allowed into or through Jericho. At that point we burst out laughing. Tragedy had become farce, as we watched other tour busses from other companies go right on through.

We drove all the way around that excuse for a road they call the Jericho by-pass, and at least one group of tourists didn't get to what their itinerary had called for — visit Jericho. They'll survive, but I wonder if the tourism industry of the Autonomy will.

WALTER ZANGER
(Guide)

Jerusalem.

MUDSLINGING

the other hand, are usually regarded as perfectly acceptable.

In fairness to Ms. Hattis Rolet, she is by no means alone with her efforts in this field; columnists like Jon Simons ("The Settlers' Maggot Line," J.P., July 20) come within the same category, ably assisted by Diaspora colleagues such as Chaim Bernat of the London Jewish Chronicle who, on July 8, pronounced Ehud Olmert unfit to be mayor of Jerusalem adding that "his rantings are as good an argument as any for the internationalization of the holy places" and accusing the Likud of using methods "pioneered by Mussolini just over 70 years ago."

All in all, it seems a somewhat undemocratic record for the government of Israel to mark its second anniversary and, although Mr. Rabin cannot be blamed for his supporters' every utterance, it is his own verbal abuse of the opposition which makes them flock to his standard.

R. WILLERS

RABIN'S OMISSION

Sir, — As a religious Jew, I have to say that it was definitely moving to see Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin place a kippa on his head and recite the "shehecheyanu" blessing (a prayer of gratitude) at the closing of his speech before the US Congress on the occasion of Israel's new non-belligerency pact with Jordan.

But there was an peculiarity in Mr. Rabin's recitation. He left out the words "melech ha'olam" (king of the world) from the blessing. Was the omission an oversight, or did the prime minister decide that such questions of sovereignty were still too sensitive at this stage and perhaps better deferred until a more final phase of negotiations?

JOYCE LEMPEL
New York.

YES TO ENGLISH SCHOOLS

Sir, — Allison Kaplan Sommer misses the point in "English schools — Excellence or elitism?" (J.P., July 29). If Israel is to attract new American immigrants, then Israel must provide schools where children are not set back three or four years because they don't have a command of the language.

As new immigrants who are not religious, we are seriously contemplating returning to the US because there is no adequate school for our children. Which parent in America would set their children back three or four years? After eight months in an ulpan, our high-school children are not yet at Hebrew grade level!!

So hooray for Dr. Shoshani's decision! Millions of US immigrants await aliya — they will make Israel boom!

YEHUDA BEN-YAKOV
Or Yehuda.

Rabin's forgetting secular sensibilities

YOSEF GOELL

AN old Israeli saw has it that when the Arabs and the Jews finally get tired of fighting each other, Israel's religious and secular Jews will get going at each other hammer and tongs, in their own century-old conflict.

On TV news, the breakthrough to an end to war between Israel and Jordan was broadcast alongside scenes of thousands of black-garbed haredi Jews in Jerusalem's Shabbat Square. They were vilifying the Jewish state and its government and protesting the "desecration" of ancient "Jewish" graves. It all seems to prove the adage.

On the one hand, these haredi demonstrations may be taken with a pinch of salt; in the broader context, however, they should be regarded very seriously indeed.

It is the end of the Hebrew month of Av, close to a month before Rosh Hashana. At this time of year, haredi yeshiva students take a vacation from their grueling studies. There is a long tradition which has Av as the month when haredi hotbeds go hunting for causes celebres which can be blown up for use in fund-raising campaigns among haredi communities abroad.

Past mass demonstrations in Shabbat Square and Shabbat Square-throwing on the Ramot Road have almost always taken place at the end of Av and the beginning of Elul. Hopefully, this latest Av frenzy too shall pass.

In a broader sense, however, this latest clash is a worrisome indication of growing aggressiveness in the haredi camp. It shows a widening of the areas of confrontation with the relatively somnolent secular majority. The anti- or non-Zionist, anti-modern ultra-observant Jews who call themselves haredim constitute about 10 per cent of

Israel's Jews. This makes them a significant and very visible minority in this country's pluralistic society. As such, the haredim are entitled to choose their own lifestyles and to seek to impart their ways to their children.

In a democratic, pluralistic Israel, Moslem and Christian Arabs, Druze and Circassians, Re-

em national Orthodox as the mainstream of Israeli religious Orthodoxy.

It also emanates from a sense of newfound political power deriving from the close balance over the last decade and a half between Labor and the Likud, which have competed ferociously for haredi political support.

Israelis are growing very resentful of cynical sellouts to the haredim

form and Conservative Jews, Ethiopians, Bene Israel Jews and even Jews for Jesus should have similar rights.

A majority has no right to impose its way of life on minorities determined to preserve their own ways, no matter how bizarre these may be, as long as they do not threaten public safety.

At the same time, it goes without saying that any attempt by a minority to impose its ways on others is obscene, and should be vigorously resisted. This is what a good part of the religious-secular confrontation of the past few decades has been all about.

IN RECENT years, many young haredim and some older political leaders — and rabbis — have become more aggressive in their fight to impose the "only true form of Judaism" on this country.

This aggressiveness derives from the self-confidence that comes from a growth in numbers, and from the haredim having replaced and partly taken over from the older Zionist and mod-

One of the more mind-boggling examples of buying haredi support occurred in the 1992 coalition agreement with Shas. The Labor party promised that Rabbi Moshe Maiya, Shas's deputy minister of education, would be involved in preparing curricula for teaching Judaic studies in secular schools.

This week, in response to the Shenhar Committee's recommendations on the Judaic studies curriculum, the normally soft-spoken Maiya threatened that any attempt to weaken that commitment would place serious hurdles in the way of Shas's rejoining the coalition.

The very idea of a haredi rabbi deciding what should be taught in secular schools — perhaps even teaching Judaic studies there when he teaches Bible — is an abomination. It would be like Shulamit Aloni teaching a course on civil and women's rights in a Ponevezh yeshiva, or a Mason lecturing in a Roman Catholic seminary.

These and many other religious, ethical, philosophical, social and cultural issues are beyond Prime Minister Rabin's scope of interest. He and most of his fellow Labor politicians are the epitome of cultural yahoosism. They are single-minded devotees of anything that serves to build or preserve ruling coalitions.

They are wrong in their narrow-mindedness. As working politicians, they should know that problems emanating from the secular-religious dispute have brought down more Israeli governments than any other single issue.

Rabin should remember one of the crucial factors that enabled him to seize the party leadership by a sliver of a percentage point over his rival Shimon Peres in the January 1992 primaries: it was many Laborites' belief that he wouldn't sell out as readily — or perhaps at all — to the haredim, as Peres had done so shamelessly during his 14 years of stewardship as party leader.

In the event, in the two years of this coalition government, Rabin has rivaled and even outdone Peres. The premier should be aware. Wheels turn, especially in the volatile field of Israeli politics.

The secular majority may be apathetic and disorganized at present. But secular Israelis are growing increasingly resentful of cynical sellouts to the haredim on issues that impinge on their daily lives and that of their children. This is especially true of new immigrant voters from the former Soviet republics. Rabin and Labor should pay as much, nay greater attention to stroking the sensibilities of the secular majority as they do to cultivating Rabbi Ovadia Yosef and his Shas cohorts.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

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Judaism that is fresh, relevant

DAVID HARMAN

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman recently hosted a two-day dialogue on relations between Israel and the Diaspora, during which a succession of speakers bemoaned the state of Jewish education everywhere.

The absence of widespread Jewish literacy, coupled with vastly weakened ties to "Jewishness," it was argued, could only further erode Jewish identity and hasten the dissipation of the bonds that link Jews everywhere.

The central imperative around which a consensus emerged was the urgent need for a concerted effort to buttress Jewish education in the Diaspora and in Israel.

The report and recommendations of the "Committee to Examine Jewish Studies in State General Schools" released this week is an excellent point of departure for initiating necessary Jewish education reform at home.

In the best tradition of earlier blue-ribbon commissions, chairwoman Aliza Shenhar and her colleagues have issued an honest and courageous analysis of the current situation, together with clear guidelines for action.

Jewish studies in the vast majority of Israel's schools — the so-called secular state schools — have been woefully depressed over the past years. There has been a continuous diminution of the number of weekly class periods devoted to these subjects, and some areas of study have disappeared altogether.

The level of instruction is often poor, curricula are unimaginative and irrelevant. "The best and brightest" aren't being attracted to careers in education — let alone Jewish education.

The report, entitled "People

and World: Jewish Culture in a Changing World," correctly points out that schools reflect the society they serve, its values and predilections. Contemporary Israeli society is characterized as consumer-oriented, science- and technology-driven, deeply riven religiously and politically.

It is unlikely that this report will be greeted by across-the-board accolades. Those who believe that the preservation of Judaism is contingent upon stringent adherence to a halachic approach, who oppose contemporary interpretation and new forms of Jewish ob-

In dealing with essence and not form, the Shenhar Committee has set an example to Diaspora communities

This scenario constitutes, in the view of the committee, a real and serious qualitative threat to Israeli society. It is certainly not conducive to effective humanistic and Jewish emphases in school curricula.

The report goes on to suggest a series of corrective measures for each level of the educational pyramid, including curricular revisions, teacher training and non-formal educational activities, all premised on notions of pluralism, multiplicity of Jewish expression, and universal humanistic precepts pertinent to the weltschmerz of today's younger generation.

THE PROPOSED Jewish studies program evolves from and revolves around four pillars or hubs: Jewish and universal culture, Hebrew, Zionism and the Land of Israel. Importantly, it is recommended that Israel be taught about Jews and Jewish life in Diaspora communities.

servance and expression, will find it unacceptable.

But they are wrong. Judaism can only survive, as in the past, if it continues to be fresh and relevant. For the bulk of Jews here and abroad, a stagnant, remote Judaism, unconnected to daily life, concerns and aspirations, will be abandoned.

Diaspora Jewry is increasingly concerned with its continuity, rightly viewing rising rates of intermarriage with alarm. Many Jewish leaders hope that increased Jewish education will help stem the tide of assimilation.

However, the mere provision of schooling is inadequate. Children respond to exciting and relevant content, not to more hours in the classroom. If they cannot relate to what they are being taught, education can even be counterproductive.

Moreover, if the environment is not supportive of the schools' substantive aims, they are se-

verely constrained in their ability to influence their charges.

In seeking to deal with essence and not form, the Shenhar Committee report has set an important example. Diaspora communities would be wise to heed it.

Unfortunately, educational reform is not just a matter of implementing good ideas. Experience has shown schools to be one of the most change-resistant environments. Shelves everywhere are crammed with "new" and "modern" curricula gathering dust because teachers feel threatened by being called upon to teach unfamiliar material, using unfamiliar methods of instruction.

As a result, innovation typically requires a full generation in order to attain full acceptance. It has to begin with training new cadres of teachers, who then act as change agents.

It will be necessary to develop new curricula and material and to train teachers and administrators. Even the structure of the school week will have to be changed. Above all, it will be essential to create a positive general climate, one supportive of the proposed directions and convinced of the need for renewal.

The process must begin now, if change is to occur at all. Zevulun Hammer was the minister of education who appointed the Shenhar Committee; Amnon Rubinstein is the minister to whom the report was delivered. Hammer set an important process in motion; Rubinstein must now move the process through its next steps.

The writer is director-general of the Joint Authority for Jewish-Zionist Education of the Jewish Agency and the WZO.



You grieve alone, now

NETTY C. GROSS

THE value in dying at the hands of terrorists has greatly depreciated these days in Israel.

In the age of cheap flights to Turkey for every citizen and a cellular phone in every car — not to mention the new love affair with King Hussein — it's something of a happy anachronism, like Golda Meir's omelettes or the term *fedayeen*.

Death does not become us any more, and that's a good thing. What's bad, however, is to get caught in the crossfire. Because not only do you get killed; but your status will have gone from martyr to klutz.

Six years ago, when Rachel Weiss perished in a firebombed bus with her three small sons, president Chaim Herzog eulogized this obscure Israeli woman not as a victim of political terror, but as an epic figure. It was small consolation, but the president's words lent her death a just, almost historic resonance.

A month ago, when 17-year-old Sarit Pri-Gal was gunned down by terrorists, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat were in Paris receiving an international peace prize. The aging war heroes were undoubtedly disturbed by this latest tragedy, but each had seen enough perversity to know that this teenager's death wouldn't change anything.

The death of a Jewish person in Israel, against the backdrop of the peace process, has created a dilemma: If everything's so pluralistic and cool, if going to Amman from Tel Aviv is going to be like going from New York to New Jersey, why are people still getting killed? The solution to this riddle has been to democratize killing: such is the nature of Middle East crime.

There are lots of macho religious fanatics around. It's hot. It happens. And just like you can't

have a N.Y.P.D. transit cop in every subway car, government leaders have noted that there can't be an IDF soldier on every country road.

Those killed beyond the Green Line are dispatched with the cold sympathy reserved for a jogger who elects to run in New York's Central Park at two o'clock in the

Jews getting killed against the backdrop of the peace process: how embarrassing

morning. Sad, yes — but they're nuts for living out there. The loss of Sarit Pri-Gal and many of those before her was thus broadcast as a purely personal loss, not a national one. You cry alone now.

THE IMMEDIATE corollary to the downgrading of terror killings has been to create a far more dispassionate public mourning code for terror victims.

Yes, the victim still gets his/her obit in all the papers, and the equivalent of Andy Warhol's 15 minutes of immortality on ITV. But don't count on any national convulsion of grief.

Government officials set the tone by not attending the funerals of terror victims. This attitude fits in nicely with the public preference for dismissiveness. Martyrdom is a big number that most people would rather pass on, especially when — so the subliminal message goes — you can protect

yourself by knowing your boundaries.

Those killed within the 1967 borders have a greater chance at posthumous hagiography, e.g. Sgt. Nissim Toledano's death, and the ensuing mass expulsion of 400 suspected terrorists.

For a terror-related death or assault to have some moral/social significance these days, to have national leaders wax eloquent for you, better be the victim of a hate crime in New York or L.A. Less so in chaotic Argentina.

At least in the U.S., killing someone because of their religious beliefs, skin color or national identity is a federal offense, one which can ignite virulent public debate and response.

Hate crimes drive people mad. The earth moves — if not for the victims, then for the rest of the tribe. And it's supposed to. The reason for the attack is so broad, the victim's tribe "correctly" perceives it as an assault on the tribe as a whole. Yankel Rosenbaum's fatal knifing in Crown Heights eventually led to the political downfall of the mayor of New York City; Rodney King's beating turned L.A. into a war zone.

While the new emphasis on living for your country and not dying for it is an important psychological breakthrough and welcome, there is something ultimately terribly unsatisfying about a 17-year-old's death being viewed as just a crime glitch in the new Mideast order.

It shouldn't matter in what arbitrary geographical context Sarit Pri-Gal died — whether it happened in Crown Heights, Buenos Aires or Kiryat Arba. She was the victim of a hate crime. It may be politically expedient to view it otherwise, but doing so mocks the civility that the new Middle East is supposed be all about.

The writer is a Jerusalem-based freelancer.

Henry Kissinger, have you no shame?

ERIC ALTERMAN

LET'S set a few boundaries right off: If Henry Kissinger prefers to be the kind of Jew who rarely, if ever, darkens the door of his local shul, that's his business. (It also puts him into the mainstream of contemporary American Jewish religious practice.)

And if Kissinger truly felt it was in the best interests of his nation for him to prostrate himself before various anti-Jewish, Arab dictators, that, too, need not reflect upon the man's private character.

But what of a man who sits there quietly, cravenly, while his boss spews venomous antisemitic bile? At that point, we are justified in wondering, "Henry Kissinger, have you no shame?"

Among the many salutary historical functions the late H.R. Haldeman performed in having his diaries posthumously published is the light it sheds on president Nixon's relationship with Kissinger. While the latter may have been privately contemptuous of Nixon's clumsiness, both physical and intellectual, he was, in the president's presence, utterly servile.

Thus, when Nixon, furious over New York City demonstrations against France's selling more than 100 Mirage jet fighters to Libya, informed his aides "not to let any Jews see him about the Middle East," and even decided to postpone what Nixon referred

to as the "Jewish arms supply," Kissinger, who was present for the tirade, remained silent, according to the Haldeman diary. Moreover, Nixon, Haldeman wrote, would frequently rant about "the terrible problem arising from Jewish domination in the media." He even wondered once whether "the administra-

and even saw his father lose his job before the family escaped to the U.S. Yet according to Walter Isaacson's masterly biography, Kissinger, the former secretary of state has consistently minimized his Jewish heritage, describing his childhood as "typical middle-class German" and adding "the fact of his Jewishness — of fundamen-

How could you sit silently during Nixon's antisemitic tirades?

tion's problems derived from what his friend, the Rev. Billy Graham, called "Satanic Jews." Yet the most spirited defense of his own religious and ethnic heritage that Kissinger could ever bring himself to muster, according to Nixon biographer Stephen Ambrose, was to inform the president, occasionally, that, "there are Jews and then there are Jews."

THE KISSINGER family, of German-Jewish origin, lost 13 members in Nazi concentration camps.

As a youth, Heinz Kissinger, as Henry was then called, daily confronted virulent antisemitism

mental importance in Nazi Germany — only as an afterthought.

Kissinger's discomfort with his Jewish identity, however, has not stopped him from deploying his qualifications as a high-profile Jew to defend those in power who might minimize the importance of the Holocaust.

When, in 1985, president Reagan made the horrendous decision to visit the Bitburg cemetery, with its graves of SS members, and defended his decision by referring to victims on both sides in the Holocaust, Kissinger rose to defend the decision, noting that "one can point out that the president's record on

the issue of the Holocaust is impeccable."

In fact, before Bitburg, Reagan's primary statement regarding the Nazi death camps was his delusional claim to both Yitzhak Shamir and Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal that he photographed the camps during the Allied liberation. This mystery aside, just what did Kissinger believe he was claiming on behalf of Reagan? Who, excluding perhaps former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, in American electoral life has a record on Holocaust victims that is anything but "impeccable?"

Kissinger has always been openly and unapologetically committed to a philosophy of raison d'etat in international affairs. The Vietnamese, Cambodian, Angolan, Chilean and Chinese people, among many others, have been forced to pay a terrible price for the amorality of Kissingerian diplomacy.

What Kissinger's silence during Nixon's antisemitic tirades suggests above all is the price that Kissinger himself must be paying for his contempt for the morality of others; beneath it, apparently, lies a powerful contempt for his own Jewish self.

The writer is the author of *Sound and Fury: The Washington Panditocracy and the Collapse of American Politics*. (Newsday)

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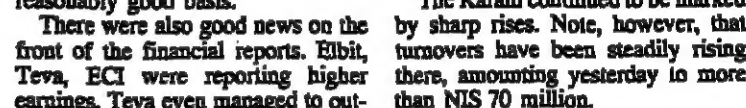
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First American 'Righteous Gentile' honored

VARIAN Fry, who died 27 years ago, this week became the first US citizen awarded the title "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem.

Working in southern France from 1940 to 1941, he helped save 4,000 people from the Nazis before being forced home by US and French officials, said Mordchai Paldi, director of Yad Vashem's Department of the Righteous.

Some of Fry's rescues were well known, including philosopher Hannah Arendt, painter Marc Chagall and writer Lion Feuchtwanger. Paldi, who presented Fry's case before the Yad Vashem committee, said Fry was different than most other "Righteous Gentiles" because his country was never occupied by Nazi Germany.

Yad Vashem usually only honors those who risked their lives to save Jews. But it recently honored a Portuguese diplomat and a Japanese diplomat who risked their careers by issuing visas against their countries' orders.

"When we honor someone like this, we always ask how many people in his place would have gone as far," Paldi said.

Fry volunteered at the Emergency Rescue Committee to help Jews about to be turned over to the Nazis by French collaborationist authorities. The US State Department gave the Harvard-trained classicist 200 visas and a letter of support, said Elizabeth Berman, a researcher with Yad Vashem.

Fry, however, eventually helped

thousands, mostly Jews, sneak out of southern France to safety.

In one incident, he paid a French official to accept a few hundred Jews as part of a company of demobilized soldiers being sent back to Algeria.

Fry acted with daring, Berman said, and could not help getting noticed. French authorities, with some encouragement from US diplomats, frequently searched his house and arrested him. They finally expelled him.

Back in the United States, Fry condemned US immigration policy for being too restrictive. The FBI opened up a file on him. Years later, his criticism came back to haunt him

when he tried and failed to get work in the defense industry.

"The experiences in Marseille made it difficult for him to readjust," Berman said. "He never got over it."

Fry had two unsuccessful marriages and three children from his second wife. He had difficulty holding down a job, and felt ignored by Americans during his lifetime. In the 1960s, the French government awarded him its Legion of Honor.

Fry died alone in 1967 in Ridgefield, Connecticut, at 69. He was working on a children's book version of his adventures in France.

The US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington is featuring an exhibit on Fry's life until the end of February. AP

Lau at groundbreaking for burned Russian synagogue

MOSCOW (AP) — A groundbreaking ceremony attended by Russian, Israeli and US officials marked the start of a construction project designed to raise a landmark Moscow synagogue from ashes, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Mayor Yuri Luzhkov promised financial assistance to rebuild the synagogue, which will form the core of a Jewish cultural center in the Maryina Roshcha neighborhood, said Vladimir Motovilov of the Lubavitch movement in Moscow.

The Maryina Roshcha synagogue was gutted by fire in December 1993. Fire investigators did not determine the cause of the fire, which at the time was believed to be caused by faulty wiring. arson was not fully excluded either.

US Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who attended Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremony along with Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, said the project marked a triumph for many genera-

tions of Russian Jews.

The collapse of the Soviet Union has eliminated its tacit suppression of Jewish cultural and religious life. Russia's 2.5 million Jews have reopened synagogues, camps, schools and even a kosher shop in Moscow, and most legal obstacles to emigration have been removed.

Yet hard-line demonstrators and some Russian Orthodox church officials often blame Jews for economic and political chaos and other misfortunes that befall Russia.

What remains of the two-story wooden synagogue in Maryina Roshcha, built in 1926, will be pulled down to make room for the new synagogue, Motovilov said. The old structure was the only synagogue built in the Soviet Union.

He said the new synagogue and cultural center will be a "majestic" three-story brick building.

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Yanks beat Brewers for 6th straight win

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The New York Yankees defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 2-1 in a rain-shortened game on Wednesday, winning their sixth straight game.

Steady Hitecock pitched a five-hitter over seven innings and Jim Leyritz and Randy Velarde each hit home runs.

Since the All-Star game, the Yankees are 17-3 and have opened a nine-game lead over second-place Baltimore in the American League East. Hitecock (4-1) won his third consecutive start. The game was called after a 1-hour, eight-minute delay in the eighth inning.

Velarde hit a lead-off homer, his ninth, to put the Yankees back on top 2-1 in the fifth. Leyritz snapped a scoreless tie in the fourth with a solo home run, his 17th, off Angel Miranda (1-5).

Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 2

Tom Brunansky's two-run homer capped a six-run fifth and Tim Lincecum pitched 7 1/2 strong innings for his second major league win.

Tim Lincecum had three RBIs for the Red Sox, who sent 10 batters to the plate in the fifth. The victory allowed Boston to break a three-place tie with Toronto in the AL East.

VanEgmond (2-3) allowed two runs and eight hits in his seventh major league start. The rookie, who has split this season between the Red Sox and their Triple-A affiliate in Pawtucket, lost his first three major league decisions, twice failing to get out of the first inning.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Expos 8, Cardinals 3

Host Montreal won its sixth straight game and opened up the biggest divisional lead of the season in the NL East.

Larry Webster, Sean Berry and Moises Alou had solo home runs. Larry Walker had three doubles — increasing his NL lead to 43 — and Gil Hestada allowed only four hits in seven innings.

Montreal, which has won 14 of its last 15 games, has a 5 1/2-game lead over Atlanta — a half-game larger than the Braves' largest divisional lead on April 18.

Beretta (5-3), making his second start of the season, allowed only one hit after Mark Whiten hit a leadoff single in the second. He struck out six and walked one.

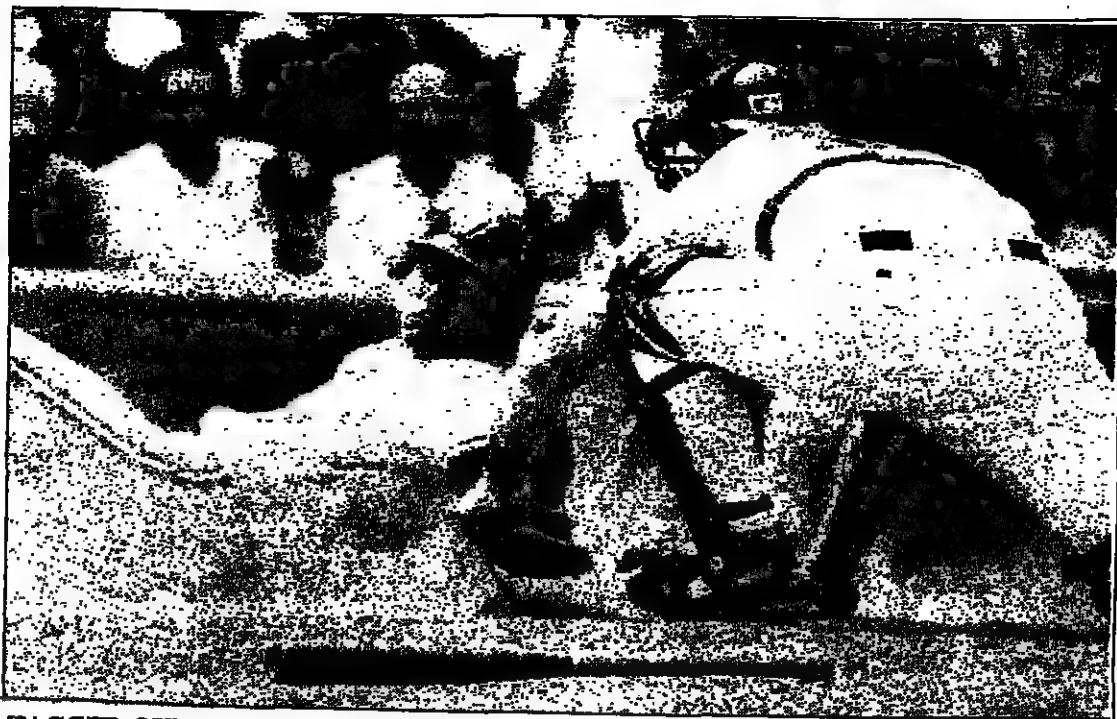
Montreal scored four runs off Raul Combs (2-2) in the first inning.

WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Boston 7, Toronto 2
Milwaukee 4, Baltimore 3
New York 2, Milwaukee 1 (7 1/2 inn., rain)
Cleveland 7, Detroit 4
Kansas City 3, Oakland 5
Texas 11, Chicago 8
Seattle 5, California 4

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Florida 9, Chicago 8
Cincinnati 17, San Francisco 4
Philadelphia 7, Pittsburgh 9
New York 3, Atlanta 2
Montreal 8, St. Louis 3
Houston 2, Colorado 1
San Diego 4, Los Angeles 2



TAGGED OUT — Toronto's Dick Schofield is out at home plate by Boston's Rich Rowland. (Reuters)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York Yankees	57	38	.600	0
Boston Red Sox	52	43	.546	5
Toronto Blue Jays	51	44	.537	6
Detroit Tigers	48	47	.505	9

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago White Sox	58	40	.594	0
Cleveland Indians	51	47	.519	7
Minnesota Twins	50	48	.510	8
Minnesota	48	50	.488	10

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles Angels	51	41	.557	0
Seattle Mariners	47	45	.511	4
California Angels	44	48	.479	7
Seattle	42	50	.458	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Montreal Expos	58	38	.606	0
Atlanta Braves	52	44	.540	6
New York Mets	51	45	.529	7
Philadelphia Phillies	47	49	.489	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati Reds	54	42	.563	0
Houston Astros	51	47	.517	3
Pittsburgh Pirates	50	48	.510	4
St. Louis Cardinals	47	51	.480	7

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles Dodgers	58	38	.606	0
San Francisco Giants	52	44	.540	6
Colorado Rockies	51	45	.529	7
San Diego Padres	47	49	.489	11

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING — American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tommy Lee, Chicago	385	108	.780	0
Tim Lincecum, Boston	357	116	.755	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	357	116	.755	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	357	116	.755	28

Runs — American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tommy Lee, Chicago	108	38	.739	0
Tim Lincecum, Boston	98	48	.672	10
Tim Lincecum, Boston	98	48	.672	10
Tim Lincecum, Boston	98	48	.672	10

HITS — American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tommy Lee, Chicago	385	108	.780	0
Tim Lincecum, Boston	357	116	.755	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	357	116	.755	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	357	116	.755	28

HOME RUNS — American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tommy Lee, Chicago	37	108	.254	0
Tim Lincecum, Boston	37	116	.254	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	37	116	.254	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	37	116	.254	28

PITCHING — American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tommy Lee, Chicago	12	3	.800	0
Tim Lincecum, Boston	12	3	.800	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	12	3	.800	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	12	3	.800	28

STRIKEOUTS — American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tommy Lee, Chicago	189	108	.635	0
Tim Lincecum, Boston	189	116	.618	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	189	116	.618	28
Tim Lincecum, Boston	189	116	.618	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING — National League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Tim Lincecum, Boston	357	116	.755	28
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'I will be the new champion of the world'

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Oliver McCall is ranked number one contender by all three major boxing organizations, but the man who next challenges world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis is best known as a world-class sparring partner.

The 29-year-old McCall, who made his name in boxing as the rugged man who helped prepare Mike Tyson for big fights, gets his big shot when he goes after the World Boxing Council crown held by Lewis on September 24 at London's Wembley Arena.

"I will be the new champion of the world," vowed the hyperactive McCall at a news conference Wednesday. The loquacious and confident American, determined to take advantage of opportunity, even took time to look past Lewis.

The fidgety challenger said his goal was to grab the title and hold it long enough to take on, and beat, his old employer, Mike Tyson.

"I want to beat him in a ring for real," said McCall. "I'm the guy who made him look good. I've never been knocked down, never been cut."

Tyson? I've had his eye swollen and nose busted up."

McCall, whose record is 24-5, is convinced that the big-time boxers have been ducking him over the years.

Lewis, the undefeated Jamaican-born Briton, had tried to line up a fight against former champion Riddick Bowe before being ordered to make a mandatory defense against McCall.

Lewis, sporting a new, braided hair style, was

polite at first about the upcoming match with McCall.

"It's going to be a good fight. He's not going to come there and lie down," said Lewis, who is 25-0 and has finished off 21 opponents within the distance.

"I'm not taking him too lightly, but I believe he's taking me lightly. He's never seen anybody in the ring with my speed and talent."

Lewis's trainer, Pepe Correa, said McCall, nicknamed the "Atomic Bull," was out of his mind. He thought he could handle the champion.

"Call him the 'Atomic Bull' because he's gonna be on all fours on the canvas," Correa said. "He's a good sparring partner, that's all this boy is."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Nevo finishes fourth

Eitan Nevo, Israel's only representative in the Goodwill Games, came in fourth place in the first heat of the 1,000-meter kayak race yesterday. He completed the race in three minutes 51.87 seconds.

Nevo finished behind first-place winner Knut Holmann of Norway (3:47.18), Sergei Verin of Russia (3:49.84) and Michael Herbert of the US (3:51.48).

Israel Little Leaguers beat Jordan

Israel's Little Leaguers beat Jordan 13-7 during the European Regional Little League Tournament played in Germany this week.

It was the first time an Israeli team took on a Jordanian side and players exchanged hats and shirts after the game.

The 11-12 year-old ballplayers, national champions of the Tel Aviv southern district, also played Lithuania, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, the Czech Republic and Spain.

Their record was 1-5 and have been eliminated from the tournament, which is now entering the finals.

Shearer sidelined by seafood

England striker Alan Shearer will miss the start of the domestic season after contracting a viral infection by eating seafood on a recent continental holiday.

Shearer, 23, will miss his side's Charity Shield match against double-winning Manchester United at Wembley on August 14 and also expects to sit out the opening league games at his former club Southampton and Leicester.

"I saw the doctor this morning and he told me I will definitely not be able to play in the Charity Shield," said Shearer.

Baseball players stick to same strike date

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball players decided yesterday to stick to their August 12 strike deadline rather than walk out immediately.

Union president Donald Fehr said there "was considerable sentiment to move the strike date to an earlier date — on some teams as early as tomorrow."

Players were angered when club owners withheld \$7.8 million in payments to the pension plan that were due on August 1. The payment represents about one-seventh of the \$57 million annual contribution under the deal that expired March 19.

"Just because the owners are behaving in an irresponsible and provocative manner doesn't mean the players have to do so," Fehr said.

Fehr said players didn't understand the owners' actions. "Why in the world are the owners trying to do this?" Fehr asked. "What are the owners trying to accomplish? I don't have an answer to that unless it is to force a strike as soon as possible."

Fehr said the union was willing to resume bargaining but wasn't sure owners were interested in trying to avert a

strike. "In fact," he said, "we see quite the opposite."

Richard Ravitch, head of MLB's Player Relations Committee — essentially the club owners' negotiating arm, said the union should have expected that owners wouldn't make the pension payment since the benefit agreement expired.

Fehr called the owners' pension move "highly irresponsible. It is very provocative and perhaps intentionally so."

In Kansas City, where the Royals played the Oakland A's yesterday, KC player representative Jeff Montgomery ran onto the playing field and gathered his teammates at first base to advise them of the outcome of the conference call.

Players around the nation had prepared for an abrupt end to the season and the start of the sport's eighth work stoppage in 22 years. A note on the Chicago Cubs' clubhouse blackboard yesterday, signed by "Randy" (most likely player rep Randy Myers), advised players to send home excess personal equipment. And the Cubs are playing at home this weekend.

Atherton responds to pressure with near-perfect play

LEEDS (AP) — England captain Mike

Atherton bounced back from 10 days of intense pressure only one run short of the best possible way yesterday on the first day of the second Test against South Africa at Headingley.

Atherton shrugged off the ball-tampering drama from the first Test to score a superb 99 and lead the way as England went to stumps at 269 for four.

Graham Thorpe, also under pressure to perform in his first Test this summer, scored a brilliantly aggressive 72 in a 142-run third wicket partnership with his captain.

After an innings of fearless concentration, Atherton appeared nervous on 99 and was lucky to survive two chances off Allan Donald in the one over until Brian McMillan took a superb diving return catch the following over.

McMillan had an excellent day, being involved in every wicket, with two catches at second slip, as well as taking Atherton's and Thorpe's wickets.

Atherton started slowly as he looked determined to occupy the crease with a two-fold purpose — to help build a solid England innings after its humiliating 350-run defeat in the first Test and to relieve some of the pressure which had the media calling for his sacking.

He was under fire after he was captured by television cameras taking a substance from his pocket and apparently wiping it on the ball during the first Test.

His opening partner Graham Gooch took the lead and scored quick early runs, but fell for 23 with the score at 34.

The decision to promote Gooch in the order looked a good one as the former captain raced to 23 off 40 balls, but fell to Paulie de Villiers when he chased to cover drive a wide one to edge a catch to McMillan.

Graham Hick made exactly half of a 50-run partnership with Atherton until he was tempted by a full wide ball from de Villiers and took an edge which McMillan caught brilliantly diving high to his right.

Thorpe played all his shots, and enjoyed hooking and pulling Donald and de Villiers, as well as some glorious cover drives.

He tried to hit McMillan over the top of the field, but mistimed it to



STREAMING IN — South African fast bowler Allan Donald in full swing at Headingley yesterday. (Reuters)

Forty minutes of play were lost due to bad light before tea, and play was extended 40 minutes after the scheduled stumps when bad light again interrupted and stopped play for the day.

England left Joey Benjamin out, bringing left arm Phil Tufnell into the eleven as the first England spinner to play in a Test at Headingley since 1987.

South Africa's team was unchanged from the one which made its triumphant return to Lord's after a 29-year wait two weeks ago.

The heat is on at football camp



NEW YORK (AP) — Heath Shuler spent the last three seasons eluding eager tacklers in the Southeastern Conference, so he knows a little bit about standing up to pressure.

Pressure is certain to be Shuler's constant companion as he hustles to make up for the two weeks he missed while negotiating the eight-year, \$19 million deal he signed with the Washington Redskins Wednesday. Washington fans are also going to be watching closely to see if he warrants such a windfall.

Given all that, the former Tennessee star expects he can not only catch up, but be the Redskins' starter in time for the season opener.

"That's what I'm going to push for," Shuler said. "That's why I'm

here, to push and do all I can. And that's certainly what I'll try to do. I'll push and give it all I have."

Shuler said it wouldn't be the end of the world if John Friesz, who is currently the starter, takes that job into the regular season.

"If he is the starting quarterback, then I'm going to be 110 percent behind him, because you never know what can happen in a season, and I'm just going to push him as hard as I possibly can," Shuler said. "He knows that and I know it."

Trent Dilfer, the second quarterback picked in the first round of the NFL draft, followed Shuler's lead and signed with Tampa Bay. The Cleveland Browns got their two first-round picks, defensive back Antonio Langham and receiver Derrick Alexander, under contract Wednesday.

On the other side, Roger Craig, one of the top players in football as San Francisco won four Super Bowls in the 1980s, retired on Wednesday.

Tampa Bay Bucs

Dilfer agreed to terms of a contract that will pay him an average of \$2.47 million per year in his first four seasons with Tampa Bay. He was expected in camp yesterday.

Dilfer was the sixth-pick overall and one of only two quarterbacks selected in the first round. His contract is similar to Shuler's in that it includes voidable years and provisions for Tampa Bay to buy back years five through eight.

Dilfer said his threat to re-enter the draft in hopes of being selected by one of the expansion teams next year was not a negotiating ploy.

"That was very serious and very visible," Dilfer said by telephone from Fresno, California, where he has been working out since leaving the precamp drills. "I always made it very clear Tampa was my first choice

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Ministers to resolve Modi'in excavation crisis next week

HERB KEINON

A DECISION on how to continue work on the new city of Modi'in is expected early next week, after four cabinet ministers visited the site yesterday to see where ancient burial caves are located and how the city can be built without damaging them.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who visited the city along with Justice Minister David Liba'i, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein and Police Minister Moshe Shahal, said they will come up with a compromise solution and present it within the next few days to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Shahal said another meeting with Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron is expected before a decision is made. Approximately 70,000 housing units are slated to go up at Modi'in, to house some 250,000 people.

Bakshi-Doron, who has toured the site twice in the last two weeks but did not join the ministers yesterday, sent a letter to Rabin yesterday with his compromise solution. The chief rabbi suggested that whenever graves are found in the area, work at that particular area should stop until a halachic solution can be found. Bakshi-Doron wrote that there are ways in which it is halachically permissible to build on top of graves.

Bakshi-Doron said he has received numerous letters from Jews around the world saying that the way Israel deals with this question will influence how other coun-

tries, who also have run into ancient Jewish cemeteries on the way to constructing new roads and shopping malls, deal with the problem.

Excavations at Modi'in were stopped earlier this week by the prime minister, after haredim charged that Jewish graves from the Hasmonean era were being desecrated. The Antiquities Authority claims that the burial caves there are Christian.

At a meeting this week between the four ministers and Bakshi-Doron, it was agreed that until a final compromise could be worked out, archaeological excavations at the site in advance of the massive construction will continue, except around nine areas where burial caves were discovered.

"We are trying to provide for the living while showing respect for the dead," Ben-Eliezer said during the tour of the area. He said that more burial caves are likely to be located at the site, in addition to those that have already been uncovered.

Liba'i said that there are three conflicting interests at the site. "On one side are those who want to continue building. On the other are those who want to preserve history and the artifacts, and on the third side are those who see this as desecrating the dead. But there is a willingness to talk."

Ze'ev Rosenberg, the director-general of the Religious Affairs Ministry, said it is possible to come up with a halachic solution to the problem, and that it is only a question of money. He said it is worth enlarging the budget to defuse the tensions.



Worshippers pass the Machpela Cave in Hebron yesterday after being denied access to say special prayers preceding the new month of Elul, which begins tomorrow night. (Brian Hendler)

Ben-Yair: Shaki didn't steal so he shouldn't be tried

EVELYN GORDON

MK Avner Shaki (NRP) should not be tried for using money given him for political purposes for personal use because this does not constitute theft, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

Ben-Yair's affidavit was a response to two petitions by the Movement for Quality Government in Israel and Jerusalem attorney Uri Ganor. Both petitions charged that his decision not to try Shaki in two different cases was unreasonable.

The first case involved a number of checks made out to a non-profit organization headed by Shaki, which he then transferred to his personal accounts or to those of his children.

In many cases, the donors could not be located to ask whether they intended their checks for the organization or for Shaki, but in those cases where donors were located, most said they meant the money not for the organization but for Shaki's political campaign, Ben-Yair said. They wrote the checks to the organization because Shaki told them it was the best way to contribute money for his political activities. This would make it difficult to prove that

other donors, who can't be located, really meant their money for the organization, Ben-Yair said.

There were at least four instances where donors were located. They said they had meant the money — worth some \$11,000 — go to the organization and not to Shaki. Ben-Yair admitted. However, his 41-page submission to the court does not explain why he thinks Shaki should not be tried for theft, fraud and breach of trust at least on these cases.

Even in the case of the political donors, at least one said explicitly in his statement to the police that if Shaki used the money for personal rather than political purposes, he would consider it theft. However, Ben-Yair said he had reached the conclusion that Shaki had become the owner, rather than the trustee, of these funds, because they were not accompanied by any explicit conditions. The nature of these funds was primarily that of a gift, Ben-Yair said, so Shaki committed no crime in using them as he pleased.

The second case relates to Shaki's tenure on a governmental committee for allocating bequests in 1990, when he was Religious Affairs minister. The committee approved NIS 880,000 in funding to three organizations run by relatives and political associates of Shaki's, on his recommendation, without being aware of his connection to the groups. Ben-Yair said there is enough evidence to try Shaki on charges of fraud and breach of trust, but that there is no public interest in doing so.

Ben-Yair said that Shaki's alleged crime was in many ways the fault of the system, which gave politicians the right to make such decisions in the first place. Furthermore, he said, the system has since been changed — the committee has been replaced with a public commission headed by a judge — and thus there is no deterrent value to trying him.

Ben-Yair said he also took into account the length of time that has passed, the fact that the organizations in question never received the money, that they did serve appropriate purposes, and the difficulty he would probably have persuading the Knesset to lift Shaki's immunity.

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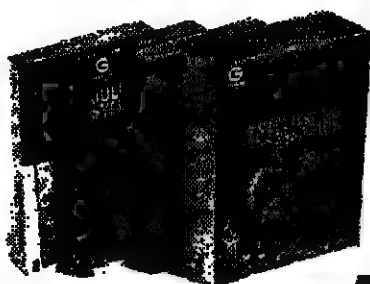
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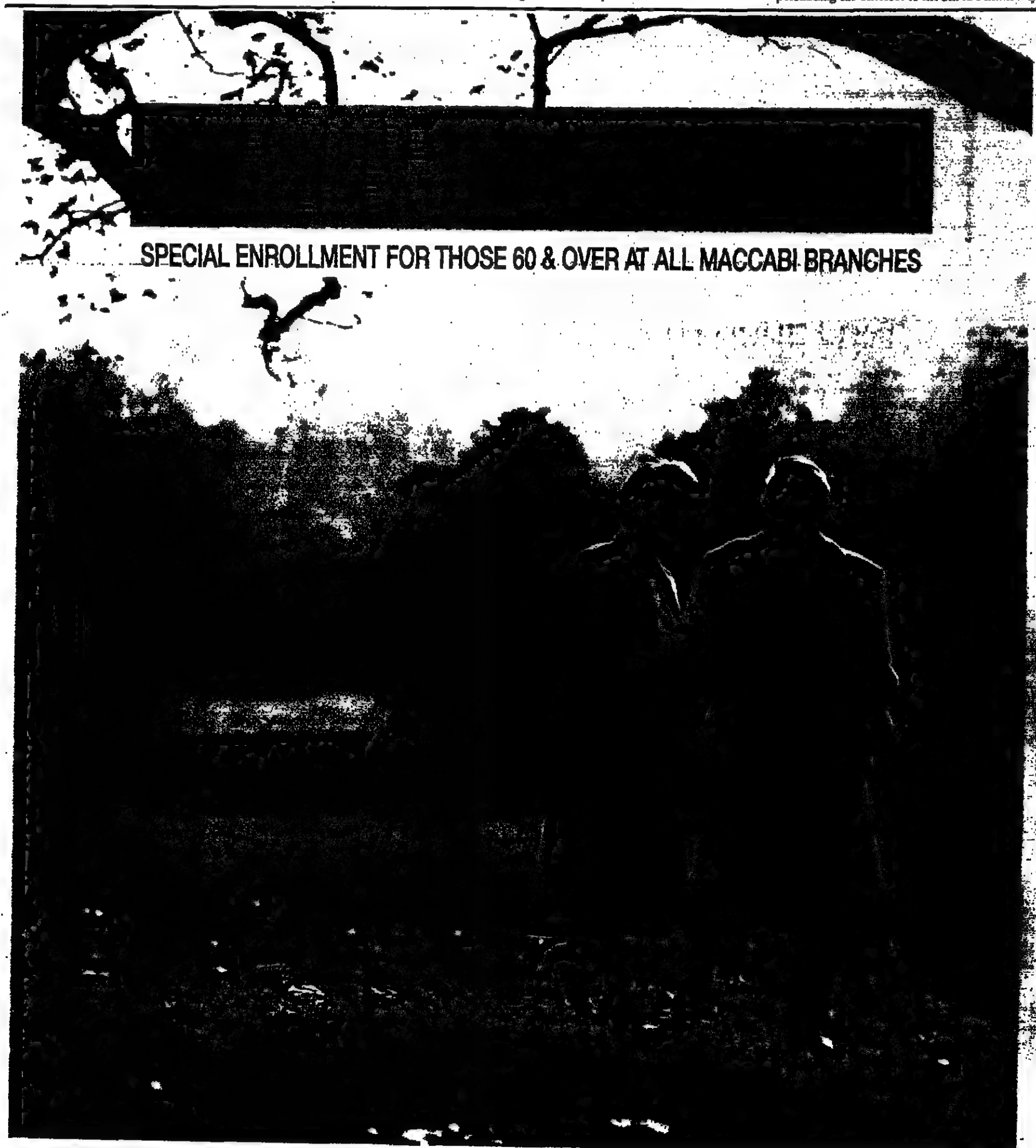
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Desert farmers: Torn between ideology and survival

Arava farmers support the peace with Jordan, but are uncertain about their future, Liat Collins reports

ARAVA residents have started to realize that peace is occurring in their own backyards. Literally.

At the top of the Jordanian agenda at the peace talks are its claims to a 380-square-kilometer area linking the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Eilat.

Discussions about the area do not arouse the strong emotions evoked by talk about the Golan Heights, but Arava farmers and residents say the fate of the land - and the water sources it holds - is a question of survival. Their dilemma is heightened by the fact that nearly all of them favor peace with Jordan.

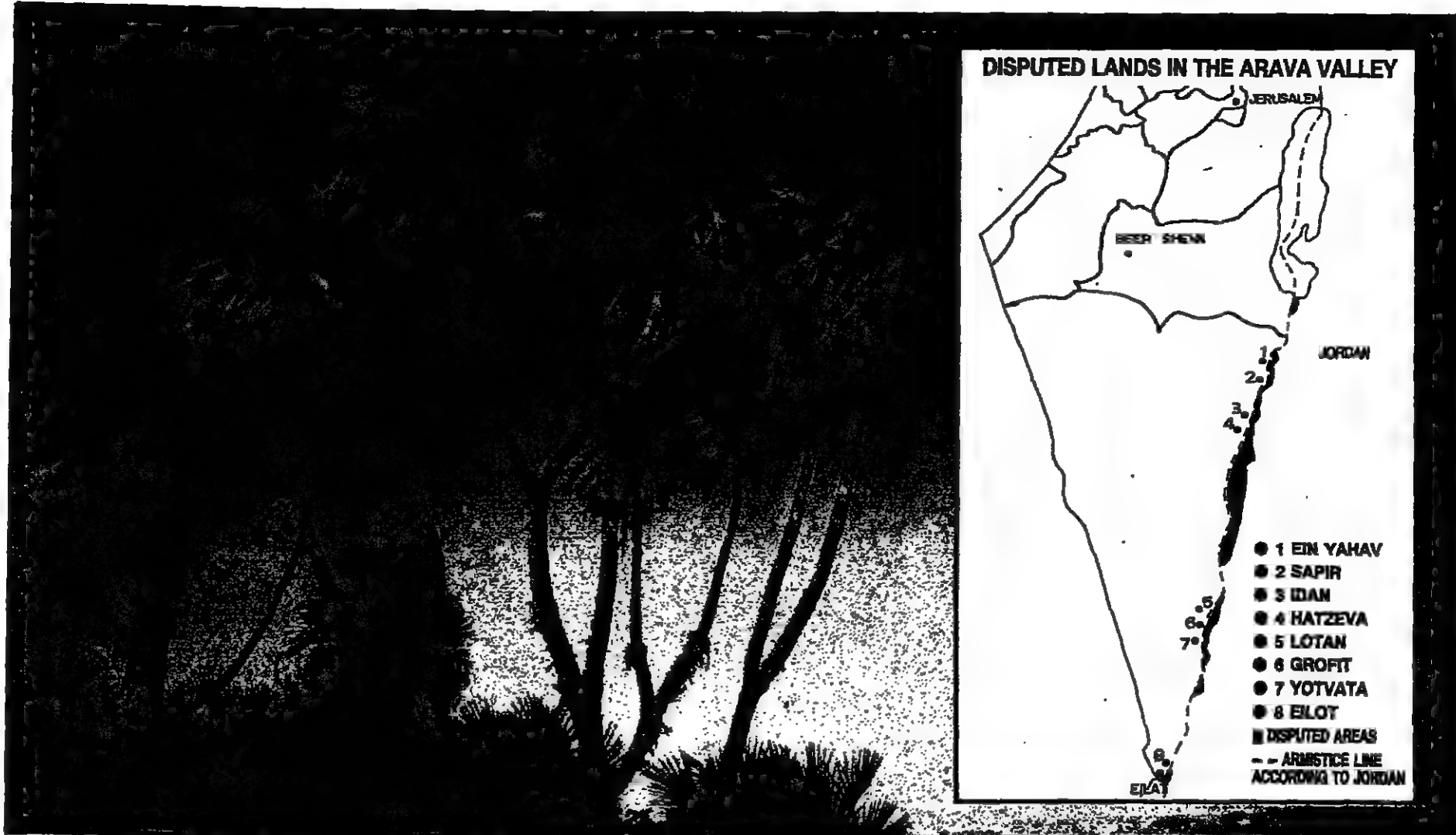
The major problem facing the Arava farmers, however, is the lack of information. They use words like "confused," "frustrated" and "concerned." The two regional councils in the Arava have not received concrete information from the government, officials say.

Take Kibbutz Eilat, just north of Eilat. "It doesn't really affect us directly yet," kibbutz secretary Haim Kantor said on Monday. The next day, Public Works Department officials arrived there to measure a temporary border crossing on kibbutz land.

Kibbutz Yotvata has the same problem, according to secretary Hillel Gordin. "Everything is being done behind closed doors, and the impression we get is that the policy will be decided upon and only then will we be told about it."

"We don't feel comfortable about that," Gordin says. "It's very frustrating. We're being asked to place our unwavering trust in the country's leadership. But today it is not the same as blindly following Ben-Gurion - some of the halo of leadership has grown tarnished over the years. We're very worried and can only hope we won't get hurt."

Although the 650 Yotvata members, like their counterparts throughout the area, discuss the issue in the dining room and on the kibbutz paths, they have no contingency plans for the changes.



Dom palms at Ein Avrona are threatened by the holding of peace talks. Inset, map of area claimed by Jordanians. (Shai Ginos, courtesy of Nature Reserves Authority)

"It's very difficult without information. We really want peace. It's like a dream come true. But the question remains, at what price?" Gordin says.

Gordin was "drawn by the desert" to Yotvata 35 years ago. "We came here when Eilat was still a tiny city in exile. We came as pioneers to settle the longest border in the country."

When you call Kibbutz Grofit, 45 km. north of Eilat, a recorded message tells you to leave your name and number if you are interested in becoming a member.

Despite the uncertainty, plans for the future continue.

"We believe a solution will be found, but we must proceed with caution," Treasurer Eitan Benyovitch says. "We are still attracting young people, because the whole Eilat area is undergoing a boom. There are fears of the unknown, but that's not what will deter people from coming - the climate and life-style will do that, but not peace."

Grofit, founded in 1966, has a

small plastic-bag industry and part ownership in the Ye'elim recreational center, but agriculture still provides more than 60 percent of the income for the 300 members.

Like other farmers in the area, they grow winter crops (melons, garlic and onions) for export, and they also produce dates. "We don't know whether we'll be asked to give up land, exchange it or

even lease it [from the Jordanians]," Benyovitch says. "One thing is for sure - we can't farm it without water."

Kibbutz Lotan, 12 km. north of Yotvata, is also trying to guess what will happen to its farmland.

"It's an awkward situation," says Ido Zvulun, in charge of press relations. "We haven't been told anything. We know it will affect our land, but have no idea how

much and where. We're not hysterical, but we're definitely worried. We know our continued existence is promised, and there's no talk of evacuating us. But we are talking about agricultural land."

"We depend on agriculture for our existence," Zvulun continues. "At least 80 percent of our income is from farming, and there's no alternative cultivable area which hasn't already been located and

utilized. The water problem is critical, too. Even if all the fantastic plans for joint water desalination plants get under way - what happens in the meantime, during the next 15 years?"

Suggestions of joint economic and tourism projects in the area do not calm Zvulun's fears.

"There could be a future economic boom, but it will require millions of dollars in investments and kibbutzim aren't multi-millionaires," he says. "So the question is who will handle these projects - local, Israeli groups or international organizations like those whose representatives we've already seen in the area? We hope the government will realize we must get preference."

The 100 Lotan members are affiliated with the Reform movement and include both native English-speakers and sabras.

"It is not a militant population - and not against the peace - so I don't foresee demonstrations and

fire burning. But who can tell in the future?" says Zvulun. "We don't need to buy public opinion. There is a complete consensus on the need for Arava settlements. But we must make sure the government protects our interests, and at the moment it's not clear."

Amotz Rubin from Moshav Idan in the northern Arava says he thinks residents are too apathetic and should be better organized to combat plans that could affect them.

Meanwhile, life at the small moshav goes on. Farmers tend their profitable mango groves, vineyards and vegetables - even though nearly all the land Idan members cultivate is being demanded by the Jordanians. "The Jordanians are claiming 100 percent of our farmlands," Rubin says. "We would be left with just the gardens by our homes."

"I have lived at Idan for seven years and spent 20 years in the Arava, and yet I have never seen any Jordanian activities in the area to suggest that this is their land," he says. "Neither did the government or any official body tell us that this is disputed territory - not when they gave us grants, loans or helped construct infrastructure."

Rubin says the 30 families "considered protest vigils during the talks but decided against them. After all, we're not opposed to peace."

Former Idan member Julian Harel says: "It would be ironic if Moshav Idan, which survived the fight against the Voice of America transmitter that threatened to destroy it, falls by the wayside because of peace."

Today a member of the nearby village of Merkaz Sapir, Harel is enthusiastic about the new possibilities for the area.

"For us at Sapir it can only be good, but then we don't have agricultural lands that we might lose," he says. "Sapir suffers from lack of development and industry. If the border crossing opens up right near here on the road to Petra, it could be a great opportunity. Tourism is one of the greenest industries, after all. People are talking about joint tourism projects, but it's not clear what type."

From Harel's home he can see the mountains above Petra. Every winter the snow-clad peaks have a special attraction for him.

"Even the kids [an eight-year-old and a five-year-old] talk about going up into the mountains," he says. "It's very strange to be living in the shadow of these mountains without being able to touch them. It'll be amazing to actually reach them at last."

Good for talks, bad for ecosystem

WHEN Jordanians and Israelis met this week, it was at Ein Avrona, one of the few undisputed sites along the current border.

However, the area is also a nature reserve, and Nature Reserves authority officials say the temporary tent city erected for the talks is causing irreversible damage to the desert ecosystem.

"This is only one of the environmental aspects of the talks which concern us a great deal," says NRA director-general Dan Peri. "We hear a lot of talk about connecting roads and electricity grids, building gas stations and so on. At this point we're trying to find out what they are discussing, and we are making it clear that we will not allow environmental damage."

"Obviously the connections of infrastructure in a particularly sensitive area ecologically will have an impact. It will cause far greater stress on the system," Peri says. "In the short term this will be a problem, but in the long term there might be joint environmental-protection programs with the Jordanians, so there might be benefits too."

Among the NRA's recommendations: Opt for tunnels instead of overland roads in areas with particularly harsh topography, and favor overland oil pipelines rather than ships, because of the vulnerability of vessels and the threat to the corals of the Red Sea. "In the meantime, we're trying to watch, to help, and to cope," Peri says.

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Hussein steps into light to avoid being eclipsed

David Makovsky traces the steps leading from secret talks between Jordan and Israel to a handshake on the White House lawn

NOTHING could have been more visible than the Royal Jordanian Airlines jet piloted by King Hussein flying low over Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and circling the Temple Mount on Wednesday.

Yet until last month, the region's longest-reigning ruler had survived by avoiding open peace with Israel and confining contact to a secret partnership. This policy began to change after the Israel-PLO agreement last September, when Hussein saw that survival for his regime depended on a broader relationship with Israel.

Though other factors also influenced the king's decision, he came to admit that the Israel-PLO accord was pivotal. In some ways, for the king, making peace with Israel was making a virtue out of necessity. As one senior Clinton administration official put it: "He had a safety net until Oslo. He could go around the world saying everybody should negotiate with the PLO, knowing full well that Israel would oppose it. After Oslo, he was no longer sure. That safety net was gone."

In order to avoid being eclipsed by the Israel-PLO accord, Hussein had to ensure that his own vital economic interests were protected; and he had to become an economic factor in shaping the new Palestinian entity in the territories.

The king's concerns began with the Oslo accord, but gained urgency once the Cairo agreement was concluded on May 4 alongside a broad Israel-PLO economic accord. Within two weeks, Hussein held the first of two secret meetings with Prime Minister Rabin in London.

Another factor that crystallized in May was progress on the Israeli-Syrian front. For the first time, each side was putting forward package proposals for peace. If Hussein continued taking his time, Syria's Hafez Assad would overtake him in peace talks, and an Israel-Jordan agreement would be little more than a marginal note that could not be cashed in for US assistance. The fact that Secretary of State Warren Christopher made two trips to the region to deal with Syria and did not even visit Jordan was a reminder to the king that he could be a big loser if he stayed behind.

A third reason was Hussein's continued economic isolation. For the most part, the US had refrained from offering assistance to the country that had supported Iraq's Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war.

Iraq itself, a big market for Jordanian exports in the 1980s, was now an economic, as well as political, pariah.

The Gulf states, a source of support for Jordan in the past, refused to forgive Hussein for being on the wrong side during the Gulf war. Hopes that things would get better were dashed in April: Hussein was hoping that his visit to Mecca would lead to meetings and reconciliation with Saudi officials. Instead, he was shunned and left Saudi Arabia empty-handed.

Finally, one cannot dismiss intangible factors. Hussein reportedly wrote to Clinton last summer:

"I am determined to fulfill that part of my grandfather's legacy and leave my own." His grandfather, King Abdullah, sought reconciliation with Israel before being gunned down by a Palestinian assassin in 1951.

NONETHELESS, it is highly doubtful that the breakthrough could have occurred without a favorable domestic and regional climate.

Domestically, Hussein was a big winner in the November elections. He introduced a new electoral system which put greater emphasis on tribal rather than ideological loyalties, and the Islamic fundamentalists were routed. The king put in place moderates who supported a pro-peace policy.

Regionally, meeting Israelis was becoming more and more acceptable. In short, Oslo may have been a threat, but it was also an undeniable opportunity. If Israel's arch foe, Yasser Arafat, could shake Rabin's hand publicly, why should Hussein be more pious than the pope?

By May, high-ranking Israeli officials were invited to take part in regional talks in Qatar and Oman, having already visited Tunisia and Morocco, not to mention Egypt. Hussein was not the only one who felt personally marginalized by Oslo. Israeli and American players, who were on the sidelines at Oslo, were front and center during this breakthrough. On the Israeli side, part of Rabin's snub of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during last week's Washington ceremonies will inevitably be viewed as the revenge of the premier's aides, who, while in the dark about Oslo, stood by the prime minister as he guided talks during the last two months.

In events leading to the Washington Declaration, Rabin kept Peres in the dark. Sources say this approach was mandated by Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, who were furious at Peres for leaking news of their November meeting. However, Peres cannot be denied his role in the Jordan breakthrough.

The Americans also played a key part in the Jordan breakthrough. While the US was left out of Oslo and President Bill Clinton was confined to being master of ceremonies at last September's handshake at the White House, the Jordan breakthrough could not have occurred without Clinton and his top aides.

However, the most interesting player was an Israeli named "Ephraim" who stepped in from the cold and cannot be interviewed or have his picture taken. Foreign reports say he is the deputy director of the Mossad. By all accounts, including public remarks by Rabin, he mediated the deal, reportedly culminating a 25-year personal friendship with Hussein.

OSLO MADE Hussein furious, and sources say that at a secret Akaba meeting with Rabin in late September the king voiced concern that the unofficial Israel-Jordan strategic cooperation might be a thing of the past. As Hussein would recall in an interview pub-



King Hussein, urged by Rabin to firm up ties, replied: "Fine, let's get on with it." (Cohen/AGIP)

lished in *The New York Times* this week, the Oslo accord "drove home to me the need to look at Jordan and look at its future, a Jordan that shared with the Palestinians everything, that gave them a home."

While some analysts accused Peres of being uninterested in Jordan's fate in the aftermath of Oslo, this was not in fact the case. In a meeting in New York eight days after the Rabin-Arafat handshake, Peres told peace coordinator Dennis Ross that Washington should promote trilateral economic projects involving Israel, Jordan and the US. He proposed a public meeting with Clinton, Crown Prince Hassan and himself.

Such a meeting took place at the White House 10 days later.

On October 20, Peres held another meeting with Ross and other top US officials, this time in Jerusalem. Peres put forward his Jordan "storming strategy," using the Oslo momentum to strike a deal with Jordan. This would complete the "natural triangle" of Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan, Peres said.

Peres's ideas were met not with American antagonism, but with skepticism. There was concern by some US officials that Syria's Assad could feel cornered and decide to sabotage both the Palestinian and Jordan tracks. There was also an unstated US fear that Israel could get sidetracked and forgo a strategic peace with Syria in favor of a separate deal with Jordan.

To Peres's credit, he stuck to his

guns. With Rabin's blessing, he asked Ephraim to set up a meeting with the king, and one was set. After voting in municipal elections on November 2, Peres, his aide Avi Gil, and Ephraim crossed the Allenby Bridge, where a Jordanian car took them to the king.

In nine hours of talks with Hussein which ended around dawn the next day, a four-page document was drafted. It included something for each side: Jordan would agree to a peace agreement, while Israel committed itself to seriously negotiating two issues—border demarcation and allocation of water from the Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers.

Also included in the document was an allusion to respecting the current Jordan-funded administration of Moslem holy places in Jerusalem, saying those running the area now should not be harassed. It also called for a shared electricity grid, and raising the idea of Jordanian debt-forgiveness with the US.

One could say that the November 3 document was a modest building block of the soon-to-be-constructed Jordan-Israel peace edifice.

But the document was doomed because of Peres's "remember November 3" remark to the media. Peres couldn't resist making the statement due to his rivalry with Rabin. The issue was not power, but historical glory.

The Jordanians were enraged, especially given the timing of the statement. It came just a couple of

days before the Jordanian elections, and they feared that the leak about secret talks would be exploited by Moslem fundamentalists.

In private conversations with visitors, Crown Prince Hassan began ridiculing Peres. Referring to the Peres's pet project of a regional business conference in Amman, Jordanians would quote the foreign minister's promise to ferry international businessmen by helicopter from Jerusalem if they couldn't find accommodation in Amman.

While many believed Peres was being prescient in stressing international business as the key to regional development, the Jordanians had other concerns at the time.

Despite its skepticism, the US hoped that November 3 would prove to be a watershed. In December, sources say, Clinton wrote to urge Hussein to make a breakthrough with Israel in January. But Hussein pulled back. Apart from the Peres leak, Israel-PLO talks were stalled, and Hussein believed Oslo could collapse and there would be no need for Jordan to reevaluate its course.

As the king pulled back, so did Rabin. The prime minister said he would negotiate borders and water with Jordan only in the context of a genuine peace agreement. Jordan-Israel negotiations resumed a slow, one-step-at-a-time course. An agreement was reached on opening Jordanian banks in the territories, but little

additional progress was made, except a commitment to control insects in the Arava.

The lethargic Israel-Jordanian track was shaken back to life when the Israel-PLO accord became a reality on May 4. Jordanian officials said the king was astounded when he read "List B," the provision of the Israel-PLO economic agreement that dealt with sharp limits on Jordanian exports to the territories. "When the king saw List B, he said this means that Jordan will now be out of the picture in the territories," a Jordanian official told an Israeli interlocutor. Israel-Jordan talks went into high gear.

On May 19, Ephraim set up a Hussein-Rabin meeting at the home that Peres would later describe as the venue of Jordanian-Israeli meetings for years—the London home of Lord Victor Mishkon, an old Jewish Laborite. Hussein was joined by Hassan, while the prime minister was ac-

companied by Ephraim, Elyakim Rubinstein (the chief negotiator with Jordan), and Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom.

As the king recalled, he was stung by charges that he was not genuinely interested in moving forward. He asked: "How am I not serious?" Rabin said the Israel-PLO agreement made it vital that Israel-Jordan ties become more concrete. The king responded, "Fine, let's get on with it."

At that meeting and another, two weeks later, between the king and Rabin at the same place, compromises were made. Jordan agreed to move the peace talks to Jordanian and Israeli soil and to announce the move at the end of an upcoming trilateral meeting on economics, thereby breaking the de-facto Syrian veto. In return, Rabin agreed to discuss borders and water. Details were worked out in trips to Amman by Ephraim and Rubinstein. Both sides also quietly hammered out detailed written security agreements.

A KEY unknown was how the Syrians would react. Hussein made a trip to Damascus in late May, but sources say he did not inform Assad what was ahead, as the Syrian leader did not divulge details of his own negotiations with Israel. Instead, they talked about the war in Yemen. A day before the June 7 Jordan-Israel Washington announcement that talks were going to move to the region, Assad accepted a Hussein invitation to send his prime minister and foreign minister to Amman for talks on economic cooperation. Once Assad heard about the Washington announcement, he felt tricked and canceled the visits of his ministers.

Sources say Syria saw this announcement as having more far-reaching implications than Israel and Jordan did at the time. Assad read into this that Jordan was now going its own way. However, sabotaging the move would only exacerbate Syria's isolation, especially if terrorism were used.

Clinton phoned Assad twice during the next month, committing Christopher to pursue progress in Israel-Syria talks. The US also made sure that Assad took notice of a June public statement by Rabin that, if no peace were reached with Damascus, the outcome would be war. Syria viewed this as a favorable sign, and Rabin was not out to make a separate deal with Amman, sources say.

Meanwhile, Hussein wanted to know whether the US was going to help him. Ephraim was in Washington, pressing US officials to grant Jordan's plea for debt-forgiveness and other requests.

On June 22, Hussein met Clinton. The day before, the monarch had written an eight-point letter asking the president for \$650 million in debt-forgiveness; military modernization from drawn-down US stocks, including F-16 fighters; and other things including more agricultural credits and financing for the acquisition of Boeing jets.

Clinton made it clear that he would help the king obtain what he sought, but Hussein would first have to demonstrate to Congress that Jordan was on its way to making peace with Israel. A meeting with Rabin was the "visible" symbol that would make the difference. Just two days earlier, when asked by an Israeli reporter at a press conference whether he would meet Rabin, Hussein said he was "not afraid of daylight."

Hussein was noncommittal in his meeting with Clinton, but did suggest that progress first had to be made on bilateral issues, leaving a hint that a meeting was in the offing a few months down the road. Hussein reportedly recalled: "When I left the US, I had already made up my mind."

On July 9, Hussein told his parliament that a meeting with Rabin was essential for obtaining American assistance.

Three days later, Hussein wrote Clinton that he was ready to meet Rabin immediately. Senior US officials speculated that the king wanted to move quickly because he did not want an opposition to coalesce once he committed himself to the principle. One US official added that Hussein had already crossed a "psychological threshold."

Israeli officials guessed that if Hussein waited, he would miss an entire congressional budgeting cycle. Israeli officials had to talk Hussein out of his idea to meet Rabin on the border in the Arava and move the meeting to Washington instead. Both wanted to give Clinton a foreign-policy victory. Going to Washington would also ensure that Congress was close to the event.

Now Rabin put things into motion. He dispatched Ephraim on daily trips to Amman to hammer out a statement that would make the Washington summit meaningful.

Jordan agreed to end the state of belligerency; the two sides agreed implicitly to recognize each other.

During Jordan-Israel-US talks on the east bank of the Dead Sea on July 20, American officials asked the Jordanians about a text for the Washington summit. US officials were surprised to hear from Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali that most of it was already done. Indeed, Ephraim and the king met for six to seven hours that night to complete the deal, which was finalized the next day.

The talks revived when the Israel-PLO accord became a reality.

companied by Ephraim, Elyakim Rubinstein (the chief negotiator with Jordan), and Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom.

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After a scuffle with police, seven Arab mayors demonstrating near the Prime Minister's Office were arrested. (Bria Hendler)

Mayors sit down for equality

HUSSEIN Suleiman, mayor of Mash'had, is trying to leave a message for local police reporters. He wants them to cover the arrival of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to the protest tent camp erected by Arab mayors outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. But in the middle of a call, his mobile phone runs out of power.

"Well, we got a phone but now we need a new battery," says another mayor, Saleh Salim.

For the last three weeks, the protesters have been clamoring for the government to erase their mounting municipal debts, currently running at NIS 281m. They recall that, in early July, the mayors of development towns threatened to set up their own tent camp in front of the Prime Minister's Office. The threat alone was enough to obtain an audience with Prime Minister Rabin, and a pledge to restructure the debts of those towns.

"Within four hours, Rabin solved all their problems," says Saleh Suleiman, mayor of the eastern Galilee town of Bu'eina. "He was scared that they would demonstrate against him."

But Rabin has dismissed the demands of the Arab mayors. During a meeting in the first week of the protest - which began on July 18 - the prime minister told the mayors they had already received hefty increases in government funding. Rabin's position was seconded this week by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

In fact, the government has significantly increased funding to the Arab sector. In the 1992 budget, the total aid to Arab municipalities was NIS 189 million. In the current fiscal year, the municipalities were given NIS 540m. Of this figure, NIS 202m. was designated to help Arab municipalities provide services and salaries.

Under a plan drafted by Shimon Sheves, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, several Arab towns have been designated as development areas and will receive more official funding; this, inevitably, at the expense of Jewish development towns.

But the increased aid has not enabled the Arab mayors to eliminate their spiraling deficits. Government officials say the reason is that the mayors have simply not bothered to balance their budgets.

Officials argue that the traditional village-type life-style in Arab towns has made providing services more difficult than in Jewish residential areas, which tend to be made up of apartment houses.

"If you gave the Arabs everything they want from the government, then each of their towns

Arab mayors are clamoring for the government to erase their municipal debts, but Rabin has dismissed their demands. **Steve Rodan and Jacob Dallal report**

with their single-family homes would turn into Savoyon," said an official who did not want to be identified, referring to the wealthy Tel Aviv suburb.

THE BIGGEST problem, according to Interior Ministry director-general Amram Kalagi, is the collection of municipal rates or *arsona*. The *arsona* set in most Arab towns is lower than in most Jewish communities of similar size.

"There is a serious backlog in the collection of taxes, *arsona* and water," Kalagi says. "We have implemented all the agreements, but the municipal heads want additional funding to what was agreed."

In some cases, Arab residents claim they can't afford to pay. In other instances, Arab politicians don't want to alienate major clans in their towns by enforcing tax collection during an election year. That, officials say, is exactly what happened in fiscal 1993, when municipal elections were held around the country.

Suleiman, the Bu'eina mayor, does not dispute this. He says that between 60 and 70 percent of his town pay *arsona*. But he acknowledges that there was little tax collection during last year's election.

"It's the same everywhere," Suleiman says. "Look at when the Income Tax Authority chooses to raid businesses and homes for taxes. Now, did they do it last year when there were elections? No."

SHEIKH Ra'id Salah Mahajneh, the mayor of Umm el-Fahm, says the protest is not merely aimed at eliminating the current Arab municipal debt. "As long as there is no change in the way budgets are distributed," he says, "the problem will remain and we will have

to come back every so often to erect this tent."

That inequality, the mayors say, is reflected by one simple statistic: Arab localities receive government funding amounting to NIS 1,050 per person, while Jewish communities receive NIS 2,400.

The timing of the protest appears to serve Ra'id's aim. The vigil is being held as the government is discussing the fiscal 1995 state budget; the mayors make it clear that they want the Arab caucus in the Knesset to demand a lot more aid to the Arab sector, particularly to the municipalities.

The protesters are now trying to generate more attention. On Sunday, they moved their protest from the park to the sidewalk below, chained themselves and stood on the curb in front of the Prime Minister's Office chanting "Equality, equality is the only solution."

The police lined up in front of the mayors and pushed them back toward the park. After a scuffle, seven of the mayors were arrested, including Umm el-Fahm's Sheikh Ra'id.

The sheikh, a large, soft-spoken man with a black beard, asserts that the police behaved brutally, pushing and cursing the elected officials. "They hit me from all sides," he says. "They picked me up and threw me into a police vehicle. They took me to the Russian Compound [jail] and held me for half an hour. They said I could go, but I didn't want to leave until the others were freed as well."

Police say the mayors intended to block the road in front of the Prime Minister's Office. Officials say the police did not use excessive force.

The biggest battle the Arab mayors face, though, is against ap-

athy. Twelve of the 52 mayors are supposed to be at the tent each day, but usually no more than four or five are there at any one time.

The protest is smaller than the nearby tent camps erected by Jewish settlers and the homeless. The entrance to the mayoral protest is marked by a bound cloth mannequin, symbolizing the Arab sector. Placards protest against inequality and warn of the transfer of Arabs.

The mayors say that their protest will intensify in the coming weeks, to coincide with the start of school next month and the reconvening of the Knesset in October. They threaten to shut down all Arab communities and schools in a general strike and bring thousands of their constituents to Jerusalem to join the tent camp.

That means that the mayors will continue to spend their nights under the Jerusalem sky. They spend their days in their tents reading, praying and eating.

"We're used to this," says Ahmed Haj, mayor of Kakab in Galilee. "We've been struggling for 46 years."

Palestinian democracy gets off to a shaky start

The closure of the pro-Jordanian daily 'An-Nahar' shows that Yasser Arafat sees press freedom as subordinate to his whims, and few Palestinians are challenging him on this, **Jon Immanuel reports**

ON the seafloor overlooking Gaza's colorful fishing fleet sits the pleasant landscaped headquarters of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation. Inside the building, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat holds court, and inside a storeroom is a bundle of confiscated issues of *An-Nahar*.

The campaign against the pro-Jordanian daily newspaper is first and foremost the consequence of Arafat's personal feeling of being humiliated by the Washington Declaration, and *An-Nahar*'s support of it.

Many people have condemned the closure because it was such an overt interference with the press, but only one dared point a finger directly at Arafat.

The Palestinian Authority's planning chief, Nabil Shaath, said on television that "I condemn it and I condemn any act or threat of intimidation leveled against any newspaperman - whatever his opinion, whatever his attitude."

But then he tempered his criticism by adding that the matter would be resolved when *An-Nahar* applied for a license - as if this was a technical and not a political issue.

Arafat himself made clear, in response to a question from *The Jerusalem Post* during a 40-minute meeting Tuesday with half a dozen peace activists from the Givat Haviva Institute for Peace, that *An-Nahar*'s distribution ban for the past week was more than that. *An-Nahar* "violated Palestinian law, did not recognize the Palestinian government and had no contact with it," he said.

This accusation closely parallels Arafat's current views about Prime Minister Rabin. At the meeting, he accused Rabin of violating the accord, failing to recognize Arafat's role as "head of a state" and in effect trying to avoid contact with him.

Asked if he was optimistic about the peace process, he said "No." Asked if he was depressed, he said "Yes." He related to every issue as a matter of his own personal prestige.

While Jordan's King Hussein has a standing invitation to visit Jerusalem, which Arafat claims is only his to make, Arafat says he cannot even visit Jericho freely.

"Where is the corridor?" he

asked the peace activists, claiming he was not allowed to go by road to Jericho. Then almost immediately, out of the blue, he asked: "Does Rabin want to start a Jordanian-Palestinian conflict?"

The warm ties which have publicly emerged between Hussein and Rabin, the "priority" given to Jordan's guardianship of the holy places in Jerusalem and the likelihood that Hussein will visit Jerusalem before Arafat does, have hurt the PLO chief deeply, especially since he insists his agreement with Israel made it possible.

The likelihood that the Israeli-Jordanian axis will become even closer will probably only make Arafat's mood worse and the tension between "the national interest" and "a free media" greater.

Making the issue more complicated, Arafat's mood influences not only the pace of talks with Israel, but also the pace of political developments, such as elections, within Palestinian society.

Nobody wants to be accused of being unpatriotic, and those few who have actively protested the newspaper closure have not accused Arafat of responsibility for it.

Neither Hanan Ashrawi, head of the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizens' Rights, nor a group of 35 journalists - most of whom work closely with the Western press - have suggested publicly that Arafat is responsible for the closure.

Indeed, the closure was not issued in the name of Arafat or anyone else. Asked in a BBC radio interview who gave the order, Ashrawi said all that was known "were the actions of the police."

Even Otman Halak, the owner-editor of *An-Nahar*, has kept a studied silence.

However, Nasser Nashashibi, the proprietor of a tiny magazine called *Akhbar al-Balad*, did not. As a result, his magazine - with its circulation of a few hundred - closed after threats from the Palestinian Police.

Far from becoming a hero among the defenders of a free press, Nashashibi's direct reference to "thought terrorism" by "the ruler of Gaza" branded him as an exhibitionist who was, in any case, planning to close what critics called his uninfluential,

loss-making magazine. Stranger still is the action of *Al-Kuds*, the largest and only remaining Arabic daily across the Green Line - with a circulation five times that of *An-Nahar*'s 5,000.

Al-Kuds has not printed a single word about the *An-Nahar* affair, because its proprietor, Mahmoud Abu Zuluf, harbors a deep personal resentment against Halak, according to *Al-Kuds*'s journalists. They said that for Abu Zuluf, *An-Nahar* does not exist, even when the issue is press freedom.

Closing newspapers reminds Palestinians of actions by the Israeli military authorities, and it is likely their shock was as much a reflex action as Arafat's order.

But the shock was limited largely to journalists and human rights activists who have worked closely with the Western free press. There was no public protest by the Association of Arab Journalists.

Consequently, the battle to reopen *An-Nahar* is being conducted quietly, unlike the Fatah protests against the Washington Declaration - which caused *An-Nahar*'s closure in the first place.

In Nablus, the heartland of Fatah, about 500 people demonstrated on Wednesday against Hussein and for Palestinian control of Jerusalem. The protest included a well-organized march, with participation from a scout band.

Khalil Shikaki, director of the Nablus-based Palestinian Institute for Research and Studies, said he saw the issue as a test case for measuring the real depth of democratic attitudes. He said it would particularly test the surveys which showed Palestinian support for "democracy."

He was disappointed that *An-Nahar* did not put up more of a fight to stay open, even if its newspapers would have been confiscated each day.

He planned to take a survey, asking people if in light of the *An-Nahar* affair they thought freedom of expression was more important than what Palestinian leaders called the national interest.

"Although he said the vast majority of people are against closing the newspaper, he was not sure they would oppose it if they were asked to choose between press freedom and Arafat's conception of the national interest."

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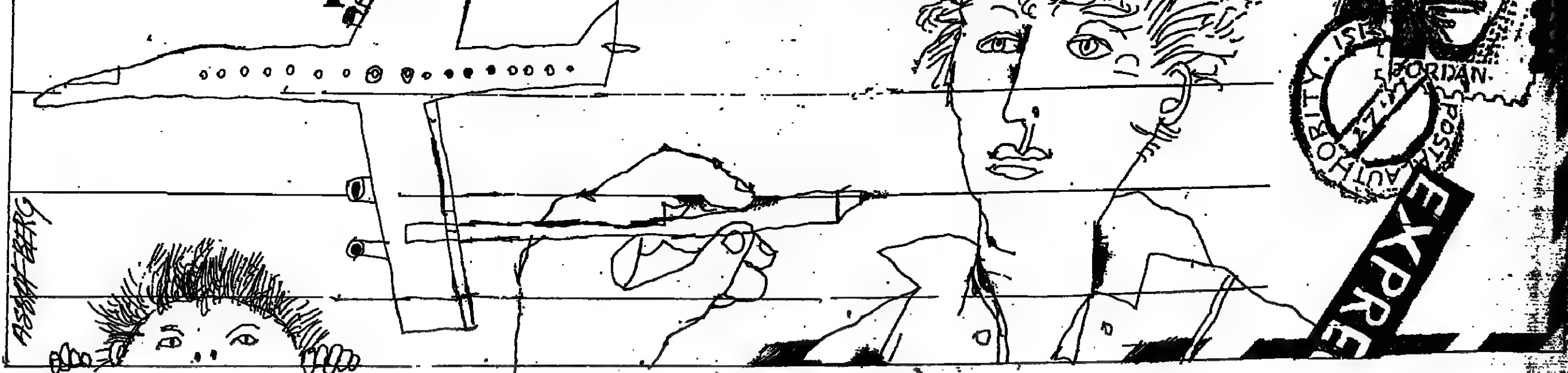
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A letter postmarked Israel



It was July 1992. I was on a Royal Jordanian Airlines flight from Bangkok to Amman, just beginning to wonder whether it was sheer stupidity that made me fulfill my dream of visiting Jordan, that forbidden land. It seemed safe enough with a foreign passport. My Israeli passport was sewn into the sponge padding of my backpack, but I still felt self-conscious, as if my Israeli character and sentiment, my longing to visit my neighbors to the East, were harder to conceal.

My anxiety was suddenly interrupted by a young voice. "Is it all right if I bother you for a while? My parents fell asleep." Not quite waiting for my response, the small Asian boy crawled onto the vacant seat next to mine and proceeded to tell me his story, if unusual, life story. "My name is Won-Ho. I'm 11. My father's Korean and my mother's Vietnamese, but I was born in Jordan and have lived there all my life," he stated matter-of-factly. "I speak four languages and we

go to Thailand once a year for a vacation and shopping. We buy all of our clothes in Thailand. In Amman it's way too expensive...." Without allowing me to get a word in, he continued his elaborate introduction: "I like Amman. We live in a house in the suburbs, and my father is one of the doctors for His Majesty King Hussein." Curiosity overcoming his energetic banter, he finally allowed for some dialogue.

On the way to Amman in 1992, Daniel Ziv, traveling as a Canadian, befriended a Jordanian boy. Now he can tell him the truth

Won-Ho seemed innocent, a child indeed. Couldn't he and I, two young souls suspended in the air returning to neighboring homes, be exempt from our countries' formal hostility? Could I not share my excitement, allow him to participate in this personal drama? "What kind of car do you have back home?" For this question I hadn't prepared. "Um, I don't have one now. I've been traveling for quite some time." "Well then, what kind are you

going to buy when you return? A BMW maybe?" "Maybe. I haven't given it much thought yet," I muttered. "I like cars," he added, as if to spare me confusion. Though fascinated by the automotive exchange, I was eager to find out Won-Ho's perception of Israel. World issues were clearly not unfamiliar to my gifted friend. He knew offhand the exact rate of exchange for the dinar on that day (0.674 dollars), and we began talking about the Middle East. I subtly asked him about Jordan's relations with its neighbors, and he said that in general, there were no problems. Jordan was a safe and wonderful place to live.

"What about Israel?" "Israel? Well, Israel's a problem...." "How do you mean? Are you at war?" "No, no. There's no war, really, but I think that as long as there's something called Israel, there will never be real peace in the area. Yes, Israel is a big problem." His plain assessment took me by surprise. I suppose I expected a more moderate approach from the worldly child of highly educated immigrants. And it was all too ironic. Here was Won-Ho, des-

perately befriending me, sharing with me his knowledge and his joy, telling me of the beautiful sites around his country and of cinemas in Amman, not knowing that the pleasant young man he'd made his buddy was from the very same country he'd casually wished off the map.

Together we watched the in-flight movie, laughed, and discussed rock music and computer games. Together, we watched through the window as Amman came nearer. We exchanged addresses and said good-bye. A few weeks after returning to Jerusalem, a wonderful trip to Jordan behind me, I received a letter from Won-Ho, mailed via my relative's Canadian address which I had given him as we disembarked. He sent a photo of himself and asked if I remembered him. He also asked what kind of car I ended up buying. I was moved but I also felt helpless. Would it be fair to continue deceiving him? If I were to tell him the truth, would he ever write back? Many months later, when the peace process moved into top gear and Shimon Peres openly met with Crown Prince Hassan in London, I wrote Won-Ho a letter. I told

him everything about myself and shared with him my hopes for peace between our countries. I expressed the hope that we could both be courageous and open-minded enough to develop our friendship, and that he could accept me for who I am, as I do him. I didn't send the letter. I still thought it was unfair, that the time wasn't right. I didn't want to spare him off.

This week, exactly two years after that Royal Jordanian Airlines flight, while watching yet another dramatic moment in history unfold on the White House lawn, I thought of Won-Ho. I wondered whether he, too, was watching. I wondered whether now, as a 13-year-old in the Middle East witnessing the impossible, he still considered Israel "a big problem." Maybe Won-Ho, like myself, was moved to tears by that prolonged and heartfelt handshake, by the warmth with which his king and my prime minister related to one another. Last week, I sent Won-Ho that letter. And I hope to return to Jordan next month and visit him in person. But I know that I'll also have to reveal to him the most brutal truth of all: I never did buy that BMW.

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She told the stories of spies and glass

ANITA Eagle, Berkoff, who died last week in Jerusalem, had an unusual literary career. She left her job on the *Calgary Daily Herald* in 1936 to go to Palestine, where she wrote human-interest stories for the overseas press. When war broke out, she moved to London where she worked variously for the BBC, the Youth Aliya London office and the Jewish Agency. In England, she married Nelson Berkoff, a Cambridge graduate who served with the Jewish Brigade. When they came to Israel with their two sons, he taught English at the Haifa Reali School and was later invited to join the English Department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he eventually became a senior lecturer in linguistics.

Anita became fascinated with the history of the Nil Group in Zichron Ya'acov, and her book, *The Nil Spies*, published in 1959, was widely acclaimed as shedding new light on the vital contribution made by the Aaronsohn family and their friends to the British military campaign against the Turks in World War I.

Her penchant for historical detection led Anita to spend some 30

years of her life investigating the development of glassmaking in ancient Palestine. From 1971 she published annual monographs named "Readings in Glass History," containing evidence of the role of the Jews as glassmakers during the Roman and later periods, and as the introducers of that skill to Europe and the New World.

All who met Anita and enjoyed her gracious hospitality will remember her brisk repartee and forthright views on issues of the day, which always reflected her unremitting devotion to Israel. L.H.



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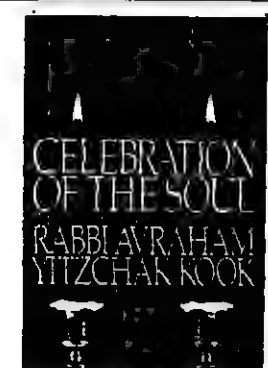
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PLO inspires religious programs

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BARRILLAN

RELIGIOUS programs – a traditional feature on most radio and television networks – have generally shied away from politics. Their declared aim is to create interfaith trust and understanding by being informative about various denominations. Their message is almost invariably inspirational and universalist.

Particularly on such "highbrow" networks as the BBC, religious hours would bend over backwards not to use their platform to bash Jews and Israel. On the contrary, the network would point to the inclusion of Jewish personalities on these programs as proof of the network's balance and fairness.

Thus, while BBC anchormen and reporters would interrogate Israeli officials – and only Israeli officials – as if they were convicted child molesters and serial murderers, the religious branch of the network was careful not to soil its image of Olympian detachment and spiritual superiority by assaulting Israel.

But recently the temptation to join the Israeli-bashing herd proved irresistible. An example of the new spirit was provided in May, when the BBC's weekly religious affairs program went, with the rest of the network, to witness Gaza's liberation from Israeli occupation. Its reporter questioned "a Greek Orthodox layman" working in the Strip.

"Would you say the settlers are a greater danger to the peace process than Hamas?"

"Well yes, the settlers are the most dangerous. Hamas will continue to oppose the agreement, but it will, of course, do so in a democratic way. Hamas is a democratic organization."

"Given that the settlers are supported by Likud grandees like Benjamin Netanyahu, giving them a wider power base than Hamas, is this not where the greatest danger lies?" pressed the BBC's man.

"Yes, this is absolutely clear, and of course the Jewish fundamentalist belief is based on gaining control of all the land without any people," replied the Greek Orthodox layman.

What could be more inspirational?

RUTH SCHULER of Jerusalem, a regular listener to the BBC's *Focus of Faith*, recorded the July 15 program. It takes no longer than a minute to realize that any difference between this program and a PLO propaganda tract is purely coincidental.

The first interviewee was Jonathan Kuttab, a prominent lawyer and eloquent spokesman for the PLO, whose purpose on this particular broadcast was unmistakable: to refute the Israeli claim of religious tolerance.

On a reasonably fair program, his task would not have been easy. Under the benevolent Jordanian rule, all 58 synagogues in the part of Jerusalem occupied by King Abdullah's Arab Legion were totally destroyed.

Tombstones from the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives were used for Jordanian army latrines, and in violation of the armistice agreement, Jews were barred from worshipping at the Western Wall for 19 years. (In this the Jordanians were not unique. Before 1967, under various Moslem regimes, Jews were not allowed to worship in the Tomb of the Patriarchs for hundreds of years.)

Even under British rule, access for Jews to their only holy places was limited. In fact, in the whole history of this country, only under Israeli rule has there been completely free access for all religions to all holy places.

Moreover, the Moslem and Christian holy places have an unprecedented measure of autonomy. (For instance, Israeli police – unless in hot pursuit of terrorists – do not enter holy sites without first informing the religious figures in charge. Because of objections by the Waqf, no metal detectors can be installed at the entrances of the Temple Mount. Nor can Jews pray on the Mount, the holiest place in Judaism.)

But now, at last, there is a peg on which to hang an anti-Israel charge. The Israelis, claims Kuttab, do not give Christians and Moslems free access to their holy places: the closure on the administered territories makes it impossible for them to worship in Jerusalem.

Leaving aside that the closure is so ineffective that anyone who wants to enter Jerusalem from Judea and Samaria can do so, the fact is that the closure has been imposed for security, not religious, reasons. Jerusalem Moslems as well as Moslems from elsewhere in Israel, can worship on the Temple Mount at will. Obviously, there is no discrimination against Christians and Moslems as such.

In the usual BBC tradition, the brief chance to reply to such charges is given to the most inarticulate Israeli local crew can find. David Cassuto of the Jerusalem City Council fulfilled the role to the BBC's satisfaction. In the few seconds he had, he explained that the Arabs of the territories were able to worship in Jerusalem "when peace will be here." Now they cannot do so because "they are not peace-loving... they are still believing they can conquer Jerusalem from Jews and throw the Jews in the water." With spokesmen like Cassuto, Israel needs no Kuttab.

Program moderator Allison Hilliard then turned to Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, who, as expected, recited all the reasons Jerusalem is holy to Islam. (Strangely, he thought that it may be holy to Jews never comes up.) Perhaps in the spirit of the time, he did concede that the discussion of the holy places in Jerusalem should in-

clude "Jewish participation," and under his breath he even mumbled that "Jews were deprived of the opportunity to go to the Wall." Needless to say, he did not mention that it was his own royal family which did the depriving.

He also hastened to mention that his grandfather Abdullah was assassinated "on the eve of an agreement on sharing." (Since the assassination – committed by a Palestinian, which was never mentioned – did not precipitate a takeover by revolutionaries but catapulted his own brother Hussein to the throne, one can only wonder why Hussein failed to conclude his grandfather's "sharing" agreement during all the years he ruled Jerusalem's holy places.)

At this point, Focus on Faith dropped all pretense of religious interest and gave the microphone back to Kuttab. The expert propagandist went into the standard PLO tirade about "the strangling of East Jerusalem" by the Israelis. Only the total destruction of cities in ancient times could be compared with what the Israelis have done. In ancient days, he said, tribes that conquered a city would not only raze it to the ground; they would pour salt on the soil to make any growth impossible.

The modern equivalent of these indescribable enormities is strangulation by "the zoning mechanism" committed by the Israelis. They are choking East Jerusalem so that it will have no future.

While the relationship of all this to religious issues may not be quite clear to the naked eye, one must admit that the analogy to total destruction in ancient times is nothing short of breathtaking.

This is particularly so when one considers Teddy Kolek's statement that the city has spent no less money on the Arab part of the city than on the Jewish section; that, like the Jewish population in the city, the Arab population has more than doubled under Israel – from 65,000 to almost 150,000 (under Jordan it had declined); and that under Israeli rule the improvement in the standard of living and the increase in municipal services for Jerusalem's Arab inhabitants have been dramatic.

Life expectancy has increased by 15 years; electric, water and plumbing services – scarce under the neglectful Jordanians – now reach virtually every Arab home. The most popular new houses in Jerusalem belong to Arabs.

Perhaps the most typical Jerusalem story is that the largest, most modern health clinic in the city has been built in the Arab neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, a few hundred meters from where 70 doctors and nurses traveling in a medical convoy to the Hadassah hospital on Mount Scopus were slaughtered by Arab terrorists in the 1948 war. The clinic is serviced by Arab doctors trained at the Hadassah-University Hospital.

But this is one inspirational story that will never be told on BBC.

A touch of pragmatism goes a long, long way

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kolek

I can hardly pretend to be terribly naive in matters of politics and other worldly affairs. Yet in spite of my ripe old age – or maybe because of it – I often find myself amazed and saddened by things Israeli politicians, usually from the right wing, say regarding the peace process.

The PLO has been our enemy for decades, they say. It has been responsible for killing innocent men, women and children. How can we talk to it? How can we contemplate making peace with such people?

These Israeli politicians call our present leaders – people who have been in charge of the IDF in all Israel's wars – "traitors" and "murderers." They blame them and the peace process for every Israeli life lost in a random act of terrorism – as though such incidents didn't happen before the process began. In fact, there were many more of them.

Very often, the people on our side who speak out against making peace with terrorists are those who themselves belonged to groups which participated in terrorist acts against the British Mandate.

They have forgiven themselves. They have forgiven the British. But the Arabs are not to be forgiven.

I fully understand the opposition. I even accept that, generally speaking, an opposition seeks to replace the government, not support it. But in Israel, where our very existence is at stake, I think that an opposition shouldn't automatically come out against every government act regardless of its historical importance, at any price, and in every way it can. Even an opposition should think of the country first and of party interests only second.

AS FOR the statement that we can't make peace with a terrorist like Yasser Arafat, who has done such terrible things to us – the banal and obvious answer is that you only make peace with your enemies, not your friends, and that if the PLO hadn't killed our people, there wouldn't be any need to make peace with them. But aside from that, and from the fact that we are making peace to stop the killing, I am angered by people's hypocrisy.

The PLO has done terrible things, true enough, but so have others. Leaving aside acts of terrorism on our part before and during our War of Independence, acts which in some cases in-

cluded the killing of civilians, we were much more recently responsible for the deaths of people in Lebanon and in the so-called occupied territories. These included civilians: old men, women and children.

Not everything we have done has always been noble or "moral." It's been part of a bitter struggle, of a war. And in war, terrible things happen.

And it's those terrible things we are seeking to end by making peace – with Arafat and, if possible, even with Hamas and Hizbullah; not with Holland or Belgium, with whom we have no common borders, or conflicts.

What better option do we have? To bear a grudge forever? To seek an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth? What good is it going to do us?

We seem to have a selective memory. For instance, we very quickly forgave the British, although they were responsible for thousands of Jews dying needlessly during and after World War II. That was certainly more deaths than have been inflicted on us by all the Arab terrorist organizations put together.

Refugee ships such as the *Struma* sank to the bottom of the sea with hundreds of Holocaust survivors on board, because the British authorities refused to let them into Palestine. And the *Struma* was just one case out of many. It was inhuman and unjustified.

Yet, wisely, we established full diplomatic relations with Britain. We can't fight the whole world and seek vengeance forever. We must compromise, and we must go on.

After long and bitter arguments, we made our peace even with the Germans, and now have a very fruitful and productive relationship with them.

SO WHY not the PLO? Why not Syria's Hafez Assad? We should be moral, but not overly self-righteous; very cautious, but pragmatic. And we should never forget where we are.

Maybe we are all a bit sorry that Moses came to this part of the world instead of Switzerland or Canada. But that's too late to change now. We're stuck with the Middle East and a hundred million Arabs around us – and their numbers will only multiply. They will grow a lot faster than our own population.

That's the reality of our existence here. So we had better learn to live in peace with the Arabs, even when it means compromise. And the sooner the better.

Harvard's semantic mire

VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

THE euphoria about "the new Middle East" has not appreciably improved the language of the discourse on the Arab-Jewish problem.

Harvard University alumni may wish to comment to their hoary alma mater on its resorting to Halfthink and Doublespeak on the subject, and its propagating misinformation that has harmed and is apt to further harm the causes of accuracy and truth, and hence of peace in our region.

Harvard has a Center for Middle Eastern Studies (MIST) for short) with a Teaching Resource Center that periodically issues a bulletin called *Middle Eastern Resources*. MIRE (for short) publishes "information for teaching about the Middle East at the pre-collegiate level."

MIRE's June issue, entitled "What's in a name?", contains a "Middle East Glossary." It boasts of defining, "as neutrally as possible, the names of organizations, events and movements commonly used on television or in newspapers and periodicals..."

Here are a few blatant examples of how MIRE mists up our understanding.

In 1972 Black September, the PLO's "Murder, Inc.," took members of Israel's Munich Olympics team hostage, murdering 11 of them.

Harvard says Black September is the "PLO organization responsible for holding Israeli athletes hostage at the 1972 Olympics."

Another example: Non-neutral people know the British Palestine Mandate embraced all of what were then called Western Palestine and Transjordan (the latter being today's Jordan). Harvard excludes Jordan, which occupies 78 percent of the original Mandate area.

In 1921, before the League of Nations gave Britain the Mandate, the Colonial Office headed by Winston Churchill handed Transjordan to the British puppet, the Hejaz Beduin prince Abdullah. They declared the region to be the Emirate of Transjordan, and made Abdullah emir, while retaining the Mandate status.

In 1946 the area became the independent Kingdom of Transjordan with Abdullah as king. In 1950 he annexed the areas east of the Jordan he seized during the 1948 five-state Arab invasion of Israel. He wanted to call his expanded country "Palestine," with him as the first "King of Palestine." Britain thwarted that move, so Abdullah adopted the name "Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly recommended partitioning "Palestine" (the name now applied only to Western Eretz Yisrael) into a Jewish and an Arab state. Five and a half months later Israel was born and the Arab states invaded, they and local Arab leaders declaring their intention to destroy Israel and exterminate its Jews.

According to neutral Harvard, "[T]he Arabs protested vigorously against the partition. War ensued... and ended with Israel gaining a larger portion of the land than originally mandated..."

The Arabs didn't launch the war; it spontaneously "ensued." And all the Arabs did was "protest vigorously."

No word, either, about Jordan's annexation of the "West Bank" (recognized only by Britain and Pakistan) and eastern Jerusalem (recognized only by Pakistan).

According to MIRE, "West Bank is the name given to the area governed by Jordan after the 1948-1949 war. It fell to Israel in the 1967 war... Other names given to his area are Judea and Samaria, the Occupied Territories and Palestine... Judea and Samaria are the Hebrew Biblical names for the geopolitical area known as the West Bank... Occupied territories is the geopolitical term..."

According to Harvard, between 1948 and 1967 the areas of Judea, Samaria and Gaza were "occupied." No word, either, about Jordan's annexation of the "West Bank" (recognized only by Britain and Pakistan) and eastern Jerusalem (recognized only by Pakistan).

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allowed Jewish holy places, and our Mt. of Olives Cemetery, to be demolished, vandalized or desecrated with impunity, and did nothing to repair the damage.

Moreover, in violation of the armistice agreement, the Jordanians did not permit Jews – from Israel or elsewhere – to openly visit our holy places in the areas they occupied, or otherwise to visit Jordan. The only exceptions to that racist ban that I remember were members of the Zion-hating American Council for Judaism and others of their ilk.

(Thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner, head of the Jerusalem-based IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis.)

ACTING RELIGIOUS Affairs Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a product of Tel Aviv's historic Labor-trend Beit Hinnuch school, seems to be as weak in Jewish tradition as he is in our history.

He concluded his address to the joint session of the US Congress last week by donning a black kippa and starting to recite the *Sheheyanu* benediction Jews recite on happy occasions.

The benediction states: "Be blessed God, our God, king of the universe, for keeping us alive, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this occasion."

Rabin omitted the three Hebrew words for "our God, king of the universe."

ARE CNN'S RALPH Begleiter and his editors also disciples of the Harvard MIST/MIRE school?

In a feature on the Arab-Jewish problem last week, his remark about "...religious Jews praying at politically contested sites" was illustrated by a Western Wall scene.

Who is contesting that?

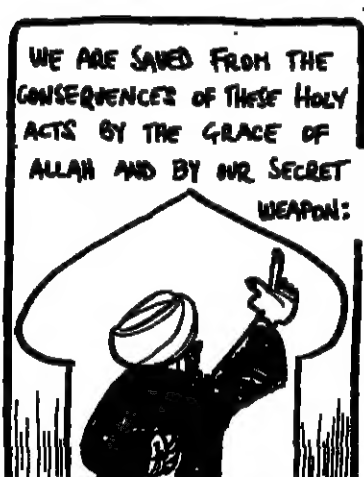
MY TIMES have been "out of joint," or I, too, like Rabin, haven't been paying attention.

On June 17 I placed the origin of the term *netzer karta* ("guardians of the city") in the time of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi. In fact, it appears in a Midrash set about one century after him, during the Sanhedrin presidency of his great-grandson, Rabbi Yehuda Nesiah (290-320 CE).

And this past Tisha be'Av marked 1,859 years since Hadrian crushed the Bar-Kochba Revolt and 1,858 years since he established a heathen shrine on the site of the Holy of Holies on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and not as I wrote here on July 15.

I hope you double-checked before you relied on my dating.

SRULIK



There are many paths to a common goal

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHILOMO RISKIN

"You are the children of the Lord your God. You shall not cut yourselves [to the gods], nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. For you are a holy people unto the Lord your God, and God has chosen you to be His own special nation." (Deut. 14:1)

MOST would agree that unity in religious observance is a goal worth striving for. But are there not many paths to God?

The literal meaning of *lo tigdedu* is clear enough. Unlike the other nations of the world, Jewish mourners are never truly orphaned, because we always remain children of God. Self-mutilation is antithetical to Judaism.

Our Sages see in this prohibition yet another idea. Expanding the literal meaning of the word *tigdedu* (cutting), the rabbis of the Talmud cite this verse as an argument against a community "cutting" itself into separate sects (B.T. *Yevamot* 13b and 14a). This prohibition therefore mandates unity in halachic practice.

This link between the first and second half of the verse also applies to the Talmudic understanding of *lo tigdedu*. Why shouldn't the Jewish community cut itself into smaller pieces? Because we are "children of God." Two courts, each issuing its own decisions, or one court which issues contradictory opinions, can lead to lawless dissension. As children of one God, a certain consistency is expected.

Thus, when Rabbi Meir Uziel, the first Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel, dealt with a query regard-

ing one community that had two different courts, Sephardi and Ashkenazi, he turned for guidance to the Talmudic discussion on *lo tigdedu*. Rav Uziel maintained that the proper response depends on a difference of opinion between Maimonides and Rashi. Rashi explains the prohibition of "cutting the community into sects" in terms of rendering separate rulings in one community where people live together and pray together, whereas establishing two differing courts of justice would give the impression that "there are two Torahs" (*Yevamot* 13b). This implies that if everyone understands that there is one Torah from which there emanated differing customs as a legitimate result of geographical separation, no prohibition would obtain.

On the other hand, Maimonides writes in his *Laws of Idolatry* (Ch. 12, Halacha 14): "There shouldn't be two Jewish courts in the same city, one following this particular practice, and the other following another practice, because this can lead to great disputes. For it says, *lo tigdedu*, you shall not cut into separate sects."

Rav Uziel suggests that Maimonides is against religio-legal disputes between authorities in one community, period! From this perspective, he believes that Maimonides would forbid having separate Ashkenazi and Sephardi *batei din* in the same town.

However, weighing the same is-

soes in his work *Ezrat Kohlen*. Rav Abraham Isaac Kook, the first chief rabbi of Israel's Ashkenazi community, clearly sides with Rashi when he writes that it's forbidden only for one *bait din* to be the source of conflicting opinions. He rules that it is legitimate to have separate Sephardi and Ashkenazi *batei din* in the same town because the uniqueness of these two populations is so well established that no one would question the reason for the different customs.

In effect, Rav Kook has mediated our initial question: Diversity is legitimate, and even praiseworthy, he says, as long as it is accomplished by mutual respect: "these and those are the words of the Living God." Only when the opposing view is seen as "another Torah" does it become cause for dissension, and must be prohibited. As long as we allow room for differing customs, two courts can operate side by side.

Rabbinic judges may differ on the specific question of Sephardi and Ashkenazi courts in the same town, or even on the issue of one or two chief rabbis for the State of Israel, but what emerges from our discussion is the importance of unity, or at least mutual respect. The elimination of denigration and delegitimization is the goal of all the halachic authorities.

NOT LONG ago a Jew from Russia arrived in Israel and was blessed with the birth of a son.

While in the Soviet Union he had witnessed many different religious ideologies "fighting it out." What he wanted was for the different factions to put aside their ideological differences and face each other in friendship at the birth of his son. He gave the following interpretation of a section of the daily prayers which brilliantly illustrated his position:

"We have to learn from the angels," he said, quoting from the Daily Prayer Book. They [the angels] all accept the yoke of the Kingdom of Heaven, one from the other, granting permission to one another to hallow their Creator. In serene spirit..."

Hasn't that section ever bothered you? he asked. What does it mean for angels to accept the yoke of Heaven, to grant permission to each other?

He went on to explain that, according to the Midrash, each angel has his own way of praising God. For the angels to accept the yoke of Heaven means they first give each other permission to praise God in the way that each wants.

We can have Sephardi angels and Ashkenazi angels, Lithuanian angels and Hassidic angels, Mizrahi angels and Agudist angels. Together they can truly comprise a symphony, as long as each gives the other an opportunity to be heard, to play a part.

As our verse in *R'eh* tells us, we have one Parent in Heaven; hence we dare not use religion (the rulings of a *bait din*) to knock each other. The moment we negate others, scorning them, we violate the command of *lo tigdedu*.

Shabbat Shalom

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Wall St. waits for the wrecking ball

The vacant buildings in the once-prestigious financial district are a sign of the times, Rick Hampson reports

THE windows of the proud, prewar skyscrapers are black, their lobbies dead as tombs, their "For Sale" and "Will Divide" signs yellow and cracked with age.

When another bank or brokerage firm moves out, it takes the landlord three or four years to find a new tenant.

This is Wall Street today. Quietly, almost while we weren't looking, it became more of a state of mind than a place.

There are still "Wall Street analysts" and "Wall Street profits" — but there's no Wall Street, at least not as we knew it.

Wall Street, the industry, has fled its birthplace, like Hollywood did. Now Wall Street is in midtown Manhattan and New Jersey and Los Angeles, in suburban office parks and home offices.

But Wall Street, the neighborhood — the street itself and its immediate environs, in the core of lower Manhattan — is going one way: down.

It has fallen victim to the age and obsolescence of its buildings; decentralization and downsizing in the financial services industry; the lure of other business districts with newer buildings, easier commutes, better food.

In the past year alone, plans for a new stock-exchange building in the heart of the financial district collapsed for lack of interest.

And 40 Wall, one of the tallest buildings in the world, sold for \$69 million less than it did four years earlier. Never in the history of commercial real estate had anything so big lost so much value so fast.

A third of the district's office space is vacant. A tower at 55 Broad has been empty since its chief tenant, Drexel Burnham Lambert, went ignominiously out of business. "Entire Building For Lease" is stenciled on the glass facade. A doorman stands morosely in the dim lobby.

Since the 1987 stock-market crash, lower Manhattan has lost a fifth of its work force — 100,000 jobs. Most are probably not coming back.



The New York Stock Exchange building one day after the 1987 crash. Since then, lower Manhattan has lost a fifth of its work force. (Brian Heidler)

"In '92, people still thought it was a cyclical downturn," says Elliott Schlar of Columbia University, a planning expert. "It's becoming clear it's more than that."

THE COMPUTER, the fax and their ilk have reduced the need for a dense, high-rise office district. At the same time, the financial services industry has become more competitive; even as profits increase, firms employ fewer workers and use less space.

The industry also has spread out. Less than a third of the firms in the Securities Industry Association are even in Manhattan. Big mutual funds like Fidelity and Vanguard are in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. And many clerical jobs once done on Wall Street can now be done elsewhere.

"The trend is toward an ever broader definition of Wall Street," says Charles Shapiro of the real estate firm Austrian Roth, "one that might be found on the information highway."

Even if they stay in New York, businesses want big, open, rectangular floors so they can rearrange their offices as needed; they want high ceilings, so they can raise floors to accommodate computers and wiring; they want extra electrical capacity, efficient air conditioning and fast elevators.

But most Wall Street buildings went up before 1940, and were designed with smaller floors. Merrill Lynch and Shearson Lehman moved to the World Financial Center, over on downtown's booming waterfront. Kidder Peabody, Paine Webber and Bear Stearns decamped to midtown.

Midtown is downtown's real competition; Pennsylvania Station and Grand Central Terminal offer access to the suburbs. Downtown has lots of subway lines to Brooklyn and Queens, but straphangers and secretaries and clerks don't sign long-term leases.

Midtown also has a half dozen

of the world's best French restaurants; downtown had Delmonico's, before it went out of business last year after a century and a half at 56 Beaver St.

Rents in downtown's older buildings are now so low that half make no money; about three dozen are bankrupt or in foreclosure. After operating costs and taxes, there's often not enough to pay the mortgage, let alone make the renovations needed to attract prime office tenants.

The real-estate firm Jones Lang Woodhead says Wall Street's next big need could be "demolition and site clearance."

"For the first time in 400 years," predicts Columbia's Schlar, "we're gonna take buildings away downtown instead of putting them up."

Even in decline, Wall Street has a great sense of place. It still is part of the nation's second largest business district, still home of its principal stock exchange. (Associated Press)

Israel's NASDAQ begins to take shape

Although the establishment of a second local bourse won't guarantee success, it seems to be a step in the right direction, Neil Cohen writes

WHEN the idea of a second stock exchange was floated late last year it was greeted with considerable skepticism. Few could have expected that a tender would soon be published and five groups would submit bids.

The idea of the second bourse has its roots in the expansion of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and the lengthening queue of companies seeking to list their shares on it. As the market boomed over the last five years, it became obvious to businessmen and financiers that the TASE was an easy source of cheap money. But as investors were becoming less and less discriminating over the quality of companies in which they invested, the TASE began to impose ever-tighter regulations governing who could list their shares on the exchange.

The main bone of contention, which is the subject of ongoing litigation, is the minimum amount of shareholders' equity required before a company can apply for a listing. Most recently the TASE raised the threshold to \$3 million from \$2m., and tightened the requirements concerning previous trading records as well as the information a company seeking to list its shares must provide in its offering prospectus.

This stiffening of requirements appears to have been a response to criticism of "bubble" companies — firms with no business and few assets, which had been able to list their shares and raise significant amounts of money. These companies posed, many believed, an inordinate danger to investors.

But critics, led by MK Sylvan Shalom, the chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee's capital markets subcommittee, argued that the tighter listing requirements prevented many promising smaller companies from raising capital.

High-technology companies with considerable promise (and commensurate risk) have been

forced by the regulations to raise money on NASDAQ in the US, where, although listing is more expensive and regulation in some ways more demanding, there are no shareholders' equity or track record requirements.

Cable TV, cellular telephone and biotechnology companies, for example, need to raise huge amounts of capital to develop their products or operating infrastructure before they see a penny in revenue, let alone profits. There seems to be little sense in denying them access to public equity markets.

NASDAQ, which was launched to compete with the New York Stock Exchange, has succeeded to such an extent that multi-billion dollar companies like Apple Computer, Microsoft and biotech giant Amgen declined to list on the Big Board under the new rules.

NASDAQ, though, is not the only model of a second or smaller companies' stock exchange. The Unlisted Securities Market in London, set up to solve problems similar to those a second bourse here would be designed to alleviate, ground to a virtual halt and ultimately ceased operating as trading all but dried up in many smaller issues, leading to huge bid-ask spreads and leaving investors unwillingly locked in to illiquid investments.

No one has explained how this problem would be avoided here, where many firms will probably be even smaller than those on the USM, and where floats could be really tiny.

"Caveat emptor," said an international expert on stock markets familiar with the local market but asked for anonymity. "No one is putting a gun to anyone's head to invest," he said when challenged with issues of liquidity and measures needed to protect investors. "I don't like artificial rules being imposed on what should be a free market; they are the function of a poor legal system."

While he agreed that, if the TASE functioned properly, there

would probably be little need for a second exchange, he doubted that such changes would ever come about. "Competition can only be a good thing," he added.

His support for a second bourse, though, was not without reservations. One key issue, he said, was the quality of the diligence investment bankers would be forced to carry out before bringing a company to market. The smaller the company, the higher the risk and the more necessary the due diligence. He was also critical of the competition with the location of the bourse — the trend is towards centralized trading, so a whole new set-up seems unnecessary.

Shalom Singer, a partner in the Singer Barnea Investment House and a former director-general of the Finance Ministry, took the view that a second exchange is premature and no substitute for improving the existing one.

"In principle, another sophisticated and efficient stock exchange will contribute to the business sector and the economy. But it is difficult to seriously consider a second stock exchange while the current exchange is not operating properly," he said. "The problems that have reached the courts include criteria in listing securities for trading and definition of market makers. In principle, if the existing stock exchange works well, I am in favor of a second exchange and even a third."

If the second exchange becomes the place where genuinely promising high-tech companies choose to raise capital, rather than on NASDAQ or from increasingly costly venture capital, it may become a resounding success. However, if regulators prove unable to police shady dealings, the market could easily become a haven for questionable companies and disreputable characters. Israel's often over-enthusiastic investors will have to learn to tell the difference.

Gali Lipkis Beck contributed to this report.

Who's who among contenders for the second stock exchange

CONTENDERS who have submitted bids to run the second stock exchange:

• The Adler group: Businessman Joseph Adler, who previously petitioned the court to allow him to set up a second stock exchange, is bidding through his Eiger company.

• The Halevy group: Jerusalem businessman Shlomo Halevy — with the help of lawyer David Shomron — has put together a group including Shlomo Eisenberg, United Mizrahi Bank, investment company Isras, broker Moshe Lavi, the Moritz family, and other investors. This group would prefer to have the second

exchange located in Jerusalem.

• The Haifa group: The Haifa Economic Corporation together with the Technion and the Israel High-Tech Industries Association (whose chairman Moshe Cohen has long fought the TASE over listing requirements). This group would locate the second exchange in Haifa.

• The Sigma group: The money-managing company Sigma (run by Prof. Dan Galai and lawyer Rivka Perl) together with America Israel Bank, Bezek and other investors.

The identity of the fifth bidder is not yet known. N.C.

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Champs of another era

THE "Deschappelles Coup" immortalized the name of Lebreton Deschappelles among bridge players.

But before he turned to bridge, he was possibly the world's strongest chess player. He fought for Napoleon, losing an arm, but was nevertheless an expert billiards player.

He also claimed that he grew the best melons in Paris and learned everything he ever needed to know about chess in three days.

Of players active this century, Nicolas Rossolimo was a brown belt in judo and played the concertina, once making a record of Russian songs. Mikhail Botvinnik was an engineer; Emanuel Lasker was a philosopher and mathematician. Mark Taimanov was a concert pianist; Vasily Smyslov a singer.

If, on the other hand, we look at modern players, we see that Bobby Fischer had no interests apart from chess.

Anatoly Karpov once listed his hobbies as "stamp collecting and Marxism." And Gary Kasparov seems to enjoy nothing besides chess and chess politics. There are precious few leading players these days who concern themselves with anything but chess.

I suspect that the information boom is largely to blame, as the essential job of sifting through the constantly growing number of games and theoretical articles is time consuming and not very interesting to your average Renaissance man.

Even a Max Euwe, who scheduled his life like a railway timetable, would have had trouble becoming world champion while still teaching mathematics.

Sadly, this is changing the atmosphere on the tournament circuit. Individuals like Bent Larsen and Jan Hein Donner are disappearing, and sportsmen such as Gata Kamsky and Vladimir Kramnik are rising up in their place - fit, armed to the teeth and out for your blood.

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

There will never be another Johannes Zukertort, a Prussian who lived in the second half of the 19th century, moved to England and lost the first official World Championship match to Wilhelm Steinitz. If his claims were true, he was fluent in nine languages, studied theology, philology, social science, chemistry and physiology, and played whist and dominoes besides chess. He also claimed to be an expert swordsman and pistol shot.

Military veteran of more than a dozen battles, dangerously wounded twice and once left for dead, he was entitled to wear seven medals. Zukertort was also the editor of a political journal, as well as being a musician and music critic. Had his health been better, he might well have beaten Steinitz.

Zukertort's combination in the following game, played in London in 1883, is said to have "electrified the onlookers." To this day, it is one of the most beautiful in chess literature.

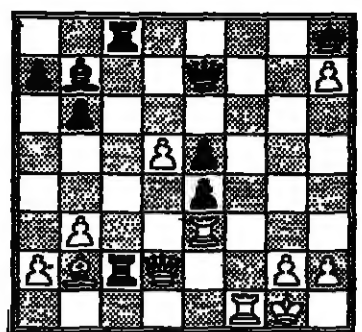
Zukertort, J - Blackburn, J

Queen's Pawn Game
1.e4 e6 2.e3 Nf6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Be2 Bb7 5.O-O d5 6.d4 Bx6 7.Nc3 O-O 8.b3 Nbd7 9.Bb2

White's setup, in which the king's bishop is usually posted on d3, would later carry his name. Black should prepare his next move with 9...a6 as the immediate 9...Qe7 cedes the bishop pair. 9...Qe7? 10.Nb5 Ne4 11.Nxd6 cxd6 12.Nd2 Ndf6 13.f3 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 dxc4 15.Bxc4 d5 16.Bd3 Rf8 17.Ra1 Rf7?

Once again rather primitive strategy. Black sees an open file and promptly doubles rooks on it, but this will prove ineffective because there are no points of entry. Zukertort, meanwhile, advances in the center and on the kingside.

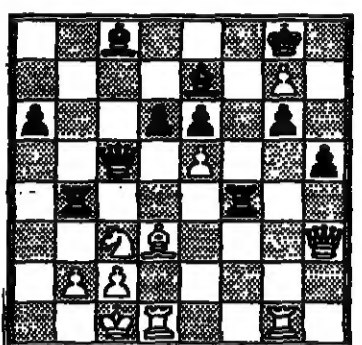
18.e4 Rxc8 19.e5 Ne8 20.f4 g6 21.Ra3 f5 22.exf6 Nxf6 23.f5! Ne4 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.f6g6! Rf2
Unless White has something, this will win the bishop on b2.
26.gxf7+ Kxh8 27.d5+ e5



28.Qb4!!
A superb move, which Zukertort must have visualized long in advance. After 28...Qxb4 29.Bxe5+ Kxh7 30.Rh3 Kg6 31.Rg3+ etc., Black gets mated.

28...R8c5 29.Rf8+ Kxh7 30.Qxe4+ Kg7 31.Bxe5+ Kxf8 32.Bg7+ Kg8 33.Qxe7 1-0

The problem this week is from a 1972 vintage game, Lobigas - Micheli. White to play and win (solution beneath diagram).



Solution: White played 1.Qxh5! after which Black resigned. The threat is 2.Qh5 mate and 1...gxf5 is met by 2.Bh7+! Kxh7 3.g8=Q+ and mate next move.



Sea lavender, often included in bouquets, has purple-and-white flowers that do not wilt and a lemony aroma. (Lester J. Millman)

From sweet dreams to cologne

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THE sweet scent of lavender has been appreciated throughout the ages as a perfume, a scent for sachets and as an aromatic for pomanders. But not many people know that it is also a source of medications used by herbalists and naturopaths.

There are two kinds of lavender that grow here. The first and most aromatic is tounefort or French lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*), and known in Hebrew as *azovion dagul*. This lavender, like the others, is a member of the mint family and is easily identified as such by its stems which are square rather than round. It flourishes in the hills of the coastal region and in the Golan Heights.

French lavender grows to a height of 50 to 70 cm. and produces spiky inflorescence with a "flag" of purple blossoms at the top from March to May. All parts of French lavender, best known as a garden plant, are highly aromatic and, even when not in bloom, its silver-green leaves are attractive.

The second lavender is sea lavender (*Limonium sinuatum*), *adad meforatz* in Hebrew. The name *adad*, meaning "everlasting," is applied to the flowers, which do

not wilt and can be dried. This lavender has a strong aroma too, but with a slightly lemony tang.

This hardy plant is also called sea lavender, because it grows in the sand between rocks along the Mediterranean coast, withstanding the constant spray of seawater. Its blossoms are far more profuse than those of French lavender, and its season of full inflorescence is from March to August. The flowers are a discrete cream color, and the sepals bluish-purple.

The Egyptians are said to have cultivated lavender for use in temple rituals of purification. It is used as an additive in ointments,

as a tincture for soothing the nerves and as an emollient for massage.

But lavender also has a place in folklore and its properties have varied descriptions. Medieval Europeans, especially the English, believed that if a girl slept on a pillow stuffed with lavender, she would see in her dream the face of the man she was destined to marry. The French said sleeping on a lavender pillow would ensure sweet sleep and abolish nightmares.

In Germany, the most widely held belief was that the aged would dream about the happiest

days of their youth if they slept on pillows stuffed with this herb.

Today, one of the commonest uses for lavender - aside from somewhat effective anti-moth sachets - is the making of lavender water. This is a simple process and easily done at home. One needs to collect a half-liter jar or bottle of leaves and/or petals. Crush them lightly with a rolling pin, add about 100 cc. of 95 percent alcohol (which can be purchased from drinks counters as *savaf*) and leave the mixture in the sun tightly covered for a few days, shaking several times a day.

Then fill the jar to the top with water and leave it for one more day. Filter the liquid through a cloth and put in a well stoppered bottle. The cologne is especially refreshing in summer.

For the accident-prone player

South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North		East	
♠ A84	♦ K72	♠ KQJ97	♦ A10
♥ QJ3	♣ AQ103	♥ A	♣ J9876
West		South	
♠ 6532	♦ 10	♠ 11	♦ 198653
♥ Q4	♣ K762	♥ 10	♣ J10954
♦ 542	♠ K	♦ K	

South	West	North	East
pass	pass	INT	2♠
♥		(all pass)	

Opening lead: ♠2

THERE is much talk these days about stock-market crashes, and very little about honor crashes at the bridge table.

I can't understand why. When the market crashes, you may lose a lifetime's savings, but you can compare that to the tragic embarrassment of allowing a game contract to score after partner takes your king with his singleton ace?

There is no worse moment for a bridge player, and very few partnerships have survived such catastrophes. There was once a story about a man from Kentucky who refused to play his singleton ace on partner's king (declarer had led the queen and induced this man's partner to cover with the king); the man revoked on purpose, and later won his bet, but at the cost of a two-trick penalty. "Better the penalty," he explained later, "than to see my king, he would've shot it."

On the other hand, to avoid such accidents is the intent of a new book on defense, by this writer and his partner, Sarah, entitled *A*

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

Switch in Time. During the early part of the hand, the defenders try to convey where their strength is by the order in which they play their cards, when they have a choice. For example, if you are about to cash a king from the king-queen, you may choose to play the queen first. This would tell partner that you have strength in a low-ranking suit, whereas if you start with the king, you prefer a higher-ranking suit.

This week's deal was played in a world championship and caused quite a commotion. If you have not already spotted the crash by now, see if you can find the two defensive honors that crashed on the same trick.

The bidding was standard but aggressive. North opened one no-trump, showing 15-17 points and East overcalled two spades. South, with great distribution but few points, took a gamble at game with a jump to four hearts. Remember, he knew his partner had at least two hearts for him, because of the notrump opening.

West led a spade. Declarer won in dummy with the ace, led a low club to the king and a heart to the king. East won the ace and tried to cash a top spade. South ruffed and led a low diamond.

This was the exciting moment: West went up with the king (oops!) and his partner's ace took the embarrassing trick.

In our book, we show how easy it would be for East to tell West that he holds the ace of diamonds. When East gains the lead with the trump ace, he has a choice of trying to cash the jack, queen or king of spades. All the cards are equal, so the only reason for leading one rather than another is to give partner some information.

The play of the jack would denote a preference for clubs over

diamonds (since the jack is the lowest honor and clubs is the lower suit); because it is obvious that East cannot hold much in clubs, the jack would scream that he has nothing in diamonds. By returning the king of spades, however, he can show a clear preference for diamonds, in this case promising that he holds the king or ace of diamonds. And this is what East should have done.

Some might say this is esoteric, that a simpler idea would be for East to simply cash the ace of diamonds at his first opportunity. This is certainly a sure-fire way of avoiding the crash, but the downside is that he may be helping declarer play the diamond suit and spoil his partner's potential trick if West held the jack of diamonds.

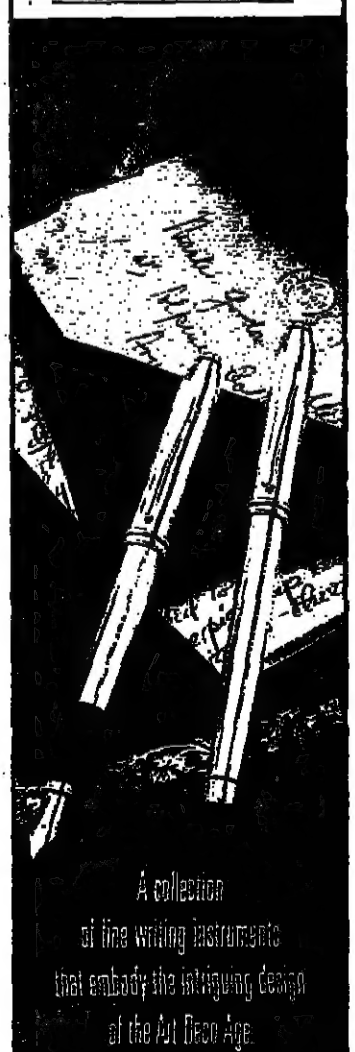
Another idea is for West to work out the hand for himself. The only point to going up with the king of diamonds is that South might hold the ace and the trick will somehow disappear. But is this really relevant? Since South is known to hold six trumps and one spade, he has six cards in the minor suits.

West can see that South has three club tricks, so if South holds the ace of diamonds, nothing can prevent him from taking two diamond tricks as well. Because the defense needs two diamond tricks to defeat the contract, West might as well duck his king and play partner for the ace.

On the other hand, what is simple analysis to some players can be quite tedious to others. Against today's aggressive bidding styles it is more tiring than ever to work out the position on every single deal without help from partner's signals. This is why we recommend the use of this suit-preference signal.

The next step, of course, is to make sure your partner understands the signal. If he does not, or he fails to watch your cards carefully, even the best signaling system will be for naught.

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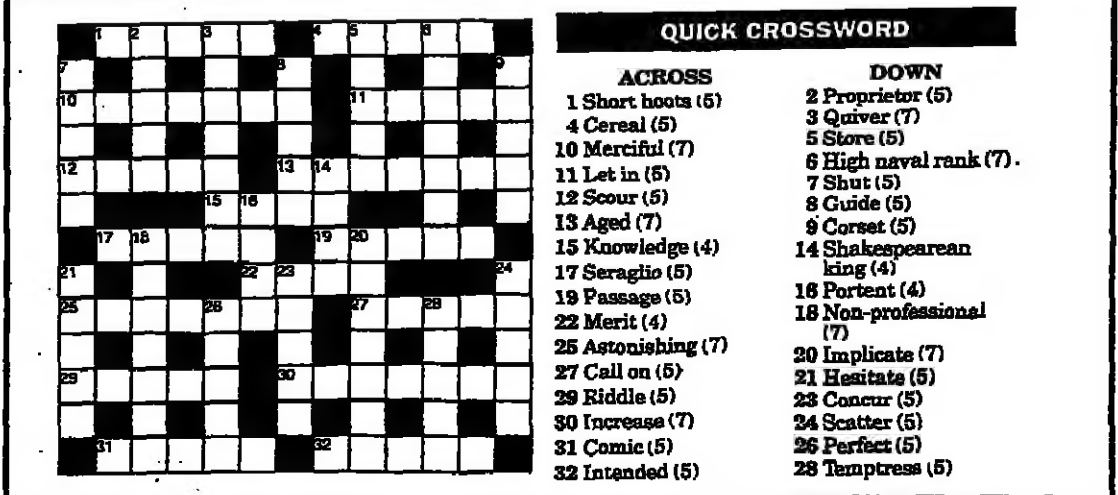
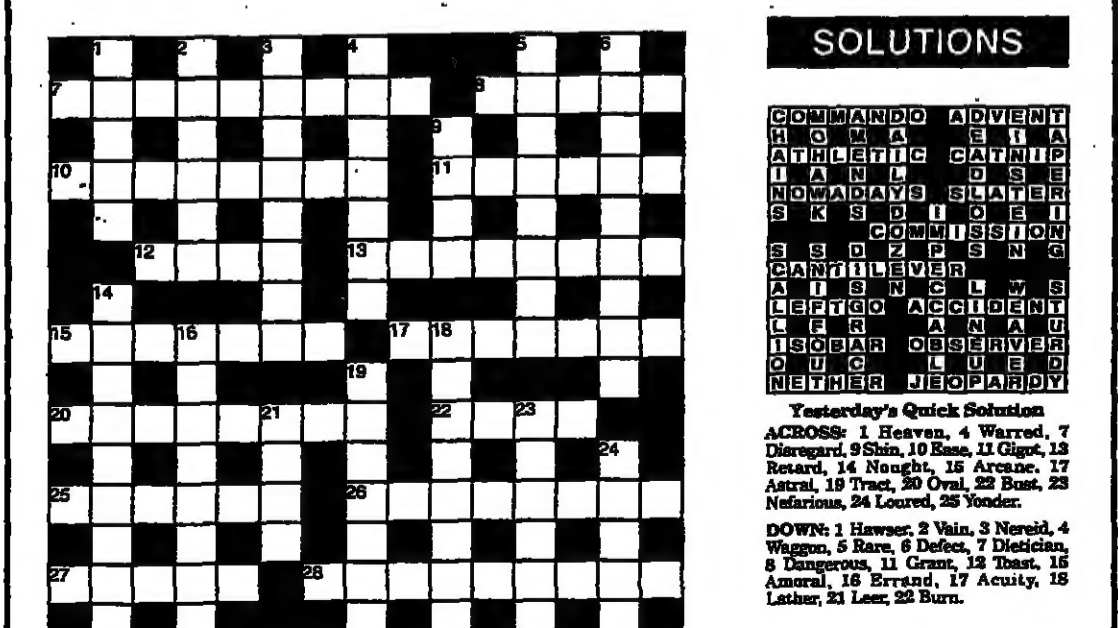


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|--|--|--------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 7 Drink disrupted pool game, (5-4) | 25 It is involved with a plan that is flexible (6) | 1 Short boots (5) | 2 Proprietor (5) |
| 8 House party in a rut, perhaps (5) | 26 Dilatory sort of hero-worship (8) | 4 Cereal (5) | 3 Quiver (7) |
| 10 Cash exchanged in pure monetary transaction (6) | 27 One loses one's head when in a corner (5) | 10 Merciful (7) | 5 Store (5) |
| 11 Arms displayed in a hostile way? (6) | 28 See trivia as an odd collection of different things (9) | 11 Let in (5) | 6 High naval rank (7) |
| 12 Stick with it! (4) | | 12 Scour (5) | 7 Shut (5) |
| 13 The wages of sin—and anger (8) | | 13 Aged (7) | 8 Guide (5) |
| 15 Its poor relief, be cautious about it (7) | | 15 Knowledge (4) | 9 Cornet (5) |
| 17 Pressing time of day? (7) | | 17 Seraglio (5) | 14 Shakespearean king (4) |
| 20 Said sale was fixed and became aggressive (8) | | 18 Passage (5) | 16 Portent (4) |
| 22 Prepare to shoot a bird (4) | | 22 Merit (4) | 18 Non-professional (7) |
| | | 25 Astonishing (7) | 20 Implicate (7) |
| | | 27 Call on (5) | 21 Hesitate (5) |
| | | 30 Increase (7) | 24 Scatter (5) |
| | | 31 Comic (5) | 26 Perfect (5) |
| | | 32 Intended (5) | 28 Temptress (5) |



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Mallorca: Island gem blessed with Spanish charm

TRAVEL

HAIM SHAPIRO

MALLORCA isn't Cyprus, it isn't Turkey and it isn't any of the Greek islands — a fact which endears it to most of the Israeli tourists visiting this Spanish island in the Mediterranean.

They are attracted to Mallorca partly because it isn't one of the holiday spots inundated by Israelis this year, and also because of the impressive mountain scenery, the beaches and clear blue water, the delicious cuisine and the rich array of Gothic architecture.

My visit to Mallorca was sponsored by Zabar, a local tourist company which has recently begun selling package tours abroad, and Globe, another local tour operator. The flight on Futura Airlines, a Spanish charter company, is only mildly uncomfortable.

What is more disagreeable, however, is that flights are scheduled to leave Ben-Gurion Airport at 3:40 a.m., and though passengers arrive in Mallorca in the early morning hours, they cannot expect a hotel room until 2 p.m. The organizers have compensated for this inconvenience by offering breakfast and a free "get-acquainted" bus tour of Palma and the surrounding area.

The island, which has a population of 550,000, receives some 12m. tourists a year. The scope of

tourism is evident in Palma Nueva. This resort suburb of the capital has hundreds of hotels, apartment hotels, retirement residences, restaurants, cafes, pubs and souvenir shops.

MALLORCA'S landscape abounds with pine and oak forests, stretching down steep hillsides almost to the sea. On the mountaintops, ancient round towers stand in mute memory of a time when it was necessary to keep a constant lookout for pirates. In the villages, even the newer buildings, which cluster around central plazas, seem to retain an old-world charm.

Here, tourism is a well-oiled industry. The small boat which was scheduled to take us from the fishing port of Soller to Sa Calobra, a picturesque bay with natural grottoes, was due to leave at 1 p.m. and, even as the church bells struck the hour, the sailors were busy pushing off.

At Sa Calobra, a tunnel has been cut through the rock to allow access to the grottoes and to a tiny inlet and beach. The cove is beautiful, if crowded and the small beach is lined with bodies.

Curiously, it is in the old walled city of La Palma, the capital, that one is less aware of the press of tourists. True, every restaurant and bar seems to have a menu in English, French and German as well as Spanish. It is still possible, however, to find some pleasant little spot and hear only Spanish.



Several experts say that the so-called Arab baths in Palma are actually Jewish in origin.

In one such restaurant we enjoyed a dinner of tapas, the little snacks that Spaniards traditionally have with their evening drink.

Prices are far from cheap. Tapas in a simple restaurant comes to more than \$10 a head. A soft drink or coffee in a cafe costs be-

tween \$1.50 and \$2, and a bus ride is more than \$1.

It costs nothing, however, to ramble around the fascinating walled city of Palma. This old town, with narrow streets squashed between the majestic Gothic cathedral and the imposing

Placa Mayor, reminds one of mainland Spain, but if anything, the old sections seem to be better preserved.

A GRIM reminder of the fate of Mallorcan Jewry is evident in the Cathedral Museum, where a set of

rimmonim (pomegranates), which once graced a Torah scroll and now, I was told, are carried in the annual Holy Week procession, is displayed in a glass case. Of all the exhibits in the museum, this is the only one which has no explanatory placard.

Although the last members of the Jewish community were either killed or forcibly converted by 1435, a small group of descendants of these converts has continued to live in Palma as a separate group, discriminated against almost to this day.

Known as *chuetas*, many of them still live in the old Jewish area near the cathedral and continue to practice their traditional trade as jewelers and silversmiths.

Some of the most striking sites in the city are the so-called Arab baths, which several experts say are actually Jewish in origin. A pool in one room may have been a mikve (ritual bath), but the most impressive part of the 13th-century remains is a round courtyard with pillars, which one could imagine may have been a synagogue.

It's a pleasure to stroll through the streets, with their overhanging balconies, and occasionally glimpse, through huge doorways, the courtyards which serve as entrances to grand buildings.

The courtyard of one impressive building, the Abaco, a sort of late-night cafe or nightclub, is filled with flowers, baskets of fruit, statuary, holy pictures and a

sound system blaring out Bach and Handel. A choice of ice cream, cocktails and fruit juices are all available at inflated prices.

Son Amar is a very different type of nightspot. At this estate in the countryside, together with 2,500 other tourists, I ate a dinner of roast meat and salad, drank weak wine and watched a floor show which, even with the short flamenco section, could have been performed anywhere in the world.

IBERIA, THE Spanish national airline, has flights to Barcelona, with a connection to Palma, every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with round-trip fares starting at \$688. From August 22, this fare drops to \$645.

Prices for a week's package to Mallorca organized by Zabar and Globe, including a direct charter flight, start at \$675, with half-board hotel accommodation (although the hotel in that price range is described as suitable for young people).

The flight and a week at the two hotels most frequented by Israelis, the Sol Belver and the Sol Palas Atenea, are \$685 and \$735 respectively for bed and breakfast and \$745 and \$799 for half board. The luxurious Melia Victoria Hotel (with three swimming pools) is \$925 for bed and breakfast.

In addition, tourists must pay a \$13 port tax and a \$25 registration fee. Tours, with the exception of the first day's "get acquainted" tour, are extra.

Private parleys: Shamir keeps mum on his talks

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE wraps may have been taken off King Hussein's secret meetings with Israeli officials, but Likud MK and former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir is keeping mum about meetings he held with other Arab leaders. It's a gentleman's agreement, he says, not to divulge the details. Shamir, who had several meetings with his majesty, including one on the eve of the Gulf war, refuses to shed more light on the subject.

BEST OF British: Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's eight-hour marathon session with the king in 1987 was arranged by ardent Zionist, politician, eminent jurist and British peer Lord Victor Mishcon, who has close ties with dignitaries on both sides of the Jordan River. When Peres and King Hussein conversed in Washington last month, the Jordanian monarch asked him if he had "spoken to Victor" about the positive developments in the peace process.

ALTHOUGH THE color has blanched and the hairline has receded, Peres's hairstyle has remained essentially unchanged for 40 years. That's what happens when you don't change barbers. Peres's long-time barber and confidant is Emil Deri, who is the uncle of Shas MK and former interior minister Arye Deri.

HIS VISION of a new Middle East is not the only issue with which Shimon Peres is preoccupied these days. The foreign minister will be the guest speaker at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv, tomorrow night at the founding conference of Halev (The Heart), as the Movement for the War Against Poverty in Israel is called. Initiated by Labor MK Rafi Eini, Halev is an apolitical, nonprofit pressure group whose central aim is to eradicate poverty by stimulating economic growth and revising welfare allocations in government funding.

THRICE MARRIED millionairess Gella Albin, who over the years has hired some 20 nannies to look after her children, says that it's easier to do without a husband than a nanny. Albin, once widowed and twice divorced, this week commemorated the ninth anniversary of the death of her second husband, legendary business genius Michael Albin.

PARAPSYCHOLOGIST Uri Geller, whose special powers enable him to heal the sick, bend spoons and repair broken clocks, is back on home territory for the premiere of Ken Russell's movie on his life. According to Geller, it's not the laying on of hands which relieves illness, but the faith of the patient. If people believe strongly enough that they are going to be helped, conviction may succeed where medicine has failed.

ALTHOUGH HE made his money from old-age homes, Florida-based Daniel Cantor prefers to donate it to youth projects. This summer he enabled numerous immigrant and economically deprived youngsters to attend Jewish National Fund Forest camps.

JEWELRY DESIGNER Aya Azrielant commutes with increasing frequency between her home in New York and Tel Aviv, where she has cultural and business interests. A member of the international

board of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Azrielant has designed a special range of ram's head gold earrings, pendants and bracelets, priced between NIS 900 and NIS 1,450, to be sold exclusively in the museum's gift shop and not in her own Israel Jewelry Exchange.

A SIGNIFICANTLY more expensive item of jewelry is being raffled in aid of Beit Issie Shapiro, the Ra'anana-based center for the treatment of children and adults with developmental disabilities. The gem is a \$22,000 solitaire blue-white 2.4 carat diamond ring, bequeathed by the late Annie Tolman, mother of Geoff Tolman, the well-known importer of furniture and furnishings. Tolman, who is honorary chairman of the BIS Board of Directors, has donated the third prize, a chaise longue valued at \$2,000. Second prize is an original \$6,000 painting by Israeli artist Moshe Kupferman. Four hundred tickets are on sale, at \$250 or NIS 750 each.

ASTROLOGERS would agree that the stars for *Davar* are not at all favorable. In addition to worries about its future, the financially ailing publication, which Histrut chairman Haim Ramon seems determined to shut down, is embroiled in a libel suit. Former Mossad chief Isser Harel is suing the paper's two senior editors Daniel Bloch and Yoram Peri for NIS 550,000.

PHILOSOPHER Yirmiyahu Yovel was determined to have his say on Monday. Yovel, who was participating in ITV's *Popolitica* from the studio in Tel Aviv, tried in vain to join in the debate, but because his microphone was switched off, was unable to gain the attention of anchorman Nissim Mishal. Taking advantage of the open screen, Yovel scribbled a message of complete silence on a large sheet of paper, which he held up in front of the camera. When Mishal finally did turn the microphone on, Yovel threatened unless he was allowed to leave the studio. Unperturbed, Mishal waited his turn — and Yovel left.

AFTER 46 years as native Jaffa, senior and negotiator Nahum Baranovitch is not expected to find much to like in the city. But when he finally old stomping ground, he discovered many things unchanged, including home and his old school. He was also an emotional with his cousin Fadia, who still lives in Jaffa.

TOURISM MINISTER Baram was in New York this week wooing members of Hadassah. Invited to attend the Hadassah international convention, Baram called on the organization to lead the way in increasing American Jewish tourism to Israel, and proposed that Hadassah hold its international convention here in 1995.

TEMPORARILY abandoning her chic Parisian suits in favor of floppy blue jeans, Chana Arafat followed the exhortations of Environment Minister Yoram Peri and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronit Elkabetz heading a cleanup campaign. Credit for putting brooms in the hands of ministers, mayors and dignitaries belongs to former minister without portfolio Shimon Peres, who 10 years ago initiated the national Operation Clean Sweep.

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